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REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS ON ITS IN-SESSIONAL MEETING HELD DURING THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, 4-29 MAY 1992

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I. OPENING OF THE MEETING, ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The Standing Committee for Programme Matters held an in-sessional meeting during the thirty-ninth session of the Governing Council convened in Geneva from 4 to 29 May 1992. The Committee was co-chaired by H.E. Dr. Martin Adouki (Congo) and H.E. Dr. Roberto Mayorga-Cortez (Nicaragua), Vice-Presidents of the Council. H.E. Mr. Romulus Neago (Romania), Vice-President of the Council, also chaired several meetings of the Committee. Mr. Luis Espada-Platet (United States) was elected Rapporteur.

2. At its 1st meeting on 4 May 1992, the Standing Committee adopted its agenda and tentative schedule of work contained in document DP/1992/SCPM/L.10. The Standing Committee also agreed to maintain a flexible schedule of work.

II. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS ON ITS IN-SESSIONAL MEETING HELD DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, 10-14 FEBRUARY 1992

3. At is 7th meeting on 7 May 1992, the Standing Committee adopted the report of its in-sessional meeting held during the special session of the Governing Council, 10-14 February 1992 (DP/1992/47).

III. FIELD VISITS

4. The report of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund (UNDP/UNFPA) field visit to India (8-14 March 1992) and Bhutan (15-24 March 1992) was presented by one mission member. Representatives of nine delegations participated in the visit: Algeria, Bolivia, Denmark, Guyana, Mauritania, Nigeria, Netherlands, Norway, and Switzerland.

5. Nine delegations made comments on the report, including four of the mission members. The latter warmly thanked UNDP for its assistance, both at headquarters and in the field, for organizing the visit and for ensuring that it was a most valuable familiarization and learning experience of actual conditions in the field. They also mentioned that it had provided an opportunity for them to discuss at first hand the practical implications of decisions made by the Governing Council as well as a better understanding for formulating future decisions.

6. The main issues brought up during the discussion of the report can be summarized as follows:

(a) Country specificity. UNDP mandates and policy priorities must be adapted to the particular situation and needs of each country and must address the dilemma of conformity with both UNDP and government priorities;

(b) Comparative advantage. UNDP, UNFPA and other United Nations organizations should provide assistance according to their own comparative advantages. In this respect, it was recommended that UNDP should carry out a survey to request all resident representatives to assess the UNDP comparative advantage in their respective countries, in both generic character and actual performance. An integrated approach should also be adopted for the role of United Nations specialized agencies;

(c) Common definitions. Commonly recognized definitions of concepts such as the programme approach and national execution, should be summarized in a brief booklet;

(d) Coordination. The UNDP coordination role responds to different kinds of needs for instance, the need for regular meetings for the exchange of information or for more substantive programming. UNDP should also strengthen national capacity in the area of aid coordination. The needs for such assistance in coordination vary greatly according to circumstances in each country;

(e) Field visit to Latin America. A field visit should be scheduled to Latin American countries; the lack of a knowledge of Spanish on the part of some members of the Governing Council should not prevent such a visit from taking place;

(f) Capacity-building. The objective of capacity-building should be fulfilled, particularly in the six areas of focus;

(g) UNFPA advocacy role. The importance of the role of UNFPA was stressed, especially the need to use and develop advocacy role;

(h) Programme approach. The need for the Governing Council to follow closely the implementation of the guidelines was emphasized.

7. Replies to the above were given by the Resident Representative for India, who indicated that he was pleased that the field visit had been a valuable opportunity for mutual exchange of experience.

8. The Director, Policy Division, Bureau for Programme Policy and Evaluation (BPPE), concluded by summarizing the activities under way in the Division to backstop field offices in connection with the above points.

9. The Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA, also commented on the Fund's comparative advantages and on the important complementary role it plays with UNDP, for example in the area of census-taking. He also mentioned the need to incorporate the population dimension into UNDP and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) country programmes.

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IV. SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF ADJUSTMENT

10. The Assistant Administrator, BPPE, introduced the programming document (DP/1992/52) which involved a Special Programme Resources (SPR) contribution of $1.3 million to complement the $4 million to be provided under the regional programme to initiate a new project entitled "Poverty Alleviation and Macroeconomic Reforms in Africa" (PAMRA), instead of proceeding with a second phase to the earlier Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) project. These arrangements had been agreed to in the light of the conclusions of the evaluation of the above project.

11. The objectives of the SPR-funded components are (a) to integrate into the policy dialogue in other regions the results of experience and research in the African region and to enable African researchers and policy makers to benefit from the experience of other regions and (b) to strengthen the capacity of research institutions and policy makers in developing countries to monitor the social impact of the adjustment process. These objectives will complement those of the poverty alleviation project, which will concentrate on the human development and capacity-building dimensions of the programme at the regional level.

12. Three delegations made comments on the proposal and suggested that further information was required before they could recommend its approval.

13. One delegation considered that the present proposal did not clarify how the new UNDP approach would differ (apart from dropping the statistical element) or even improve upon the current regional approach of the SDA initiative. In particular, it did not address how it would enhance the role of the African countries in SDA. The delegation also questioned whether the current experimental methodology was ready to be applied outside the African region and whether it would really constitute an improvement on that used to date. While welcoming the enhanced role to be given to United Nations specialized agencies, the delegation urged that coordination with the World Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the international donor community should be maintained. Finally, the delegation recommended that UNDP should reconsider its decision not to continue with a second phase of the SDA project but should rather remain as an active and contributing member of the steering committee.

14. A second delegation expressed a number of concerns: (a) the need to demonstrate clear linkages between national, regional and SPR funds in support of SDA activities; (b) the need to ensure that SPR funds were targeted more specifically towards capacity-building, and that those activities were not left only to country indicative planning figures; (c) the need to address serious management problems highlighted in the evaluation; (d) the need to spell out clearly other aspects of the SDA programme funded from other sources; (e) the need for the design of the poverty alleviation component to be fully completed before approval of the SPR component and for linkages between them to be clarified; and (f) the need to clarify the proposed administrative arrangements to be established to ensure that project activities were coordinated and integrated.

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15. A third delegation asked why UNDP was planning to establish the PAMRA project from a total amount of $5.3 million, of which $1.3 million was out of SPR funds, while at the same time, UNDP support to the Poverty and Social Policy Programme for Africa (SPPA) would not be continued.

16. In order to provide additional information and justification for the new proposal, an addendum was prepared to document DP/1992/2 and submitted to the Committee. In that document, an attempt was made to respond to questions raised by delegations and to describe how UNDP proposed to support capacity-building at country, regional and interregional levels in the process of mainstreaming social dimensions into the support which donors, particularly the World Bank, AfDB and UNDP, provided in economic policy, planning and management, and how UNDP would ensure that such support was country-focused and country-driven.

17. Such support will be provided at (a) the country level, through country level coordination mechanisms such as Consultative Groups, round-table meetings, Joint Consultative Groups on Policy (JCGP) consultations, SDA activities, and national long-term perspective studies (NLTPS); (b) at the regional level, through linkages between NTLPS and regional activities, the regional Strategy for Statistical Development in Africa, and the Africa Capacity-Building Initiative (ACBI). In addition, the PAMRA project will support closer linkages among African research institutions and policy makers on poverty matters during the adjustment process; and (c) at interregional level, to provide a facility for bringing together researchers and policy makers from different regions to share their experiences of social policy design during the process of structural adjustment and of the effects on the poor of alternative adjustment packages.

18. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the programming document for the Social Dimensions of Adjustment.

V. COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

A. Africa

1. Country programme approvals

Botswana

19. The Resident Representative introduced the fifth country programme for Botswana (DP/CP/BOT/5), which entailed indicative planning figure (IPF) resources of $7 million and $10.3 million in cost-sharing. The programme was to address four main areas: (a) employment generation; (b) human resource development; (c) natural resources conservation and utilization; and (d) the strengthening of public administration and management.

20. The Resident Representative described the preparatory process, for which there had been three multisectoral missions in 1990, followed by programming missions in 1991. Close coordination was maintained with other United Nations

specialized agencies and with donors, which helped UNDP to refine its comparative advantages in the areas of training and capacity-building, resource mobilization, and in the social development areas of education and health. Particular attention was given to integrating the six areas of focus into the country programme priorities and to undertaking a human development country initiative.

21. Five delegations spoke in favour of the country programme. Two delegations, whose representatives had participated in a field mission to Botswana in January 1992, spoke in support of the Government's development efforts and results, as well as the importance of UNDP assistance through an effective country programme. The reduction of the UNDP focus from 10 priority areas to 4 was also favourably commented upon, although it was suggested by some delegations that in view of the relatively limited resources available for the country programme, a further reduction of priority areas could have been envisaged. It was noted that the UNDP coordination role should be strengthened; the ongoing human development country initiative was commended.

22. Information was requested on (a) the consequences of the current drought in southern Africa on programme activities and (b) the relative dearth of trained counterparts, which had impeded progress towards national execution; (c) the national technical cooperation assessment and programmes (NATCAP) activities; (d) national execution, and (e) more explicit information on women in development in different areas.

23. In reply, the Resident Representative thanked delegations for their support, provided information on UNDP plans for future assistance in aid coordination, the NATCAP, and the expansion of national execution.

24. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Botswana.

Burkina Faso

25. The fifth country programme for Burkina Faso (DP/CP/BKF/5) envisaged a net IPF of $51 million and $23 million from UNDP-administered funds, i.e., the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO), the Management Development Programme (MDP) and SPR. UNDP cooperation would be concentrated under three main themes: (a) economic management; (b) natural resources management; and (c) promotion of the private sector.

26. The presentation of the programme highlighted in particular the consistency of the programme priorities, with those included in the National Plan and the Structural Adjustment Programme and presented at a donor round-table meeting held in May 1991.

27. Three delegations made comments on the programme and endorsed its overall thrust. One delegation particularly commended the linkages between UNDP and

the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) assistance in the field of environment protection and was especially interested in projects aimed at donor coordination in the context of structural adjustment. Another delegation recognized the high priority of each of the themes, and stressed the importance of the role of UNDP in economic management and recommmended the strengthening of UNDP assistance to public administration. A third delegation focused its comments on poverty alleviation and the complementarity of programmes for environment protection, women in development, community participation, and the training of civil servants.

28. Two delegations recommended that UNDP give increased attention to donor coordination and to strengthening national institutional capacity in that regard.

29. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Burkina Faso.

Cameroon

30. The fifth country programme for Cameroon (DP/CP/CMR/5), envisaged net IPF resources of $9.7 million and other resources from SPR, UNSO, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration (UNRFNRE). It would focus on three main areas of concentration: (a) economic management; (b) promotion of small and medium-scale enterprises; and (c) the protection and management of the environment.

31. Two delegations spoke in favour of the programme. One of them expressed concern at the high level of borrowing by the fourth cycle from the fifth cycle ($5.4 million), recommended priority attention to economic management, strengthening of government capacity in the area of aid coordination, a clarification of proposed activities in the fight against human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and of those envisaged for women in development. Another delegation commended the programme for being better and more focused than its predecessor and for the substantial reduction in the number of projects - from 47 to 15 by 1993. While coordination would be attempted on sectoral issues, the delegation recommended that a round-table meeting be organized to address the global development strategies of the country.

32. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Cameroon.

Central African Republic

33. The fifth country programme for the Central African Republic (DP/CP/CAF/5), which envisaged IPF resources of $21.8 million and other UNDP-administered resources of $15.3 million, was presented by the Resident

Representative. UNDP cooperation would be concentrated in the areas of: (a) revitalization of the rural sector; (b) social development and human resources development; and (c) the strengthening of national economic planning and management capacities. The presentation of the programme gave special emphasis to the accent on poverty alleviation, community participation and natural resources management, and the organization of sectoral meetings with UNDP assistance.

34. Two delegations made comments on the programme. One delegation expressed appreciation in particular for the increased focus on social development and the participatory approaches adopted in the activities for the rural and social sectors. However, it questioned the criteria for limiting the contribution to environment protection to 10 per cent of the IPF. The Resident Representative responded that UNDP had taken into account the major contributions of other donors to the sector (World Bank, the European Economic Community (EEC), Germany, France) and the need to avoid duplication. Another delegation endorsed the programme's priorities and commended the coordination of the country programme with other donor initiatives; the priority given to village water supply; entrepreneur promotion; women in development; and the use of United Nations Volunteers (UNV) specialists. However, recognizing the limited management capacity in the area of statistics, it recommended support to the Central African Republic Institute for Economic Research. The Resident Representative took note of the suggestion and highlighted the promising perspectives for the new programme relating to volunteers for the environment.

35. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for the Central African Republic.

Comoros

36. The Officer-in-Charge, Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA), presented the fourth country programme for Comoros (DP/CP/COI/4). The programme would entail a new IPF of $11.1 million and other resources of UNDP-administered funds of $7.2 million from UNCDF, MDP and UNIFEM.

37. UNDP cooperation would be concentrated in four areas of concentration: (a) economic management, including administrative reform; (b) private sector development; (c) eco-agriculture; and (d) health. The preparation of the country programme had been carried out in close consultation with other donors, who were providing complementary assistance in a number of areas, particularly in economic management and private sector development.

38. The representative of the Comoros thanked UNDP for its collaboration and underlined the difficult challenges that the Government was facing: structural adjustment and the move towards a multi-party democracy. His country depended upon UNDP assistance in meeting those challenges.

39. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fourth country programme for Comoros.

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Gambia

40. The Officer-in-Charge, RBA, presented the fifth country programme for the Gambia (DP/CP/GAM/5), which envisaged IPF resources of $23.6 million, cost-sharing of $0.1 million and UNDP-administered funds of $12.2 million from UNCDF, UNSO, UNIFEM and SPR.

41. UNDP cooperation would be concentrated in the following three areas: (a) agricultural diversification and environmental and natural resources management; (b) economic management; and (c) poverty alleviation.

42. It was mentioned that notable progress had been made in the Gambia in applying the programme approach; for example, in assisting the Government in the formulation of the economic management capacity-building programme, and in the design of appropriate UNDP assistance. Coordination was also being facilitated by preparatory work for the next round-table conference scheduled for July 1992.

43. Three delegations spoke in support of the programme. One delegation commended the sound analytical basis of the programme, which was consistent with the Government's policy framework paper. The delegation also noted that while UNDP was active in the exchange of information, real coordination needed strengthening, particularly with EEC, and between the economic management capacity-building programme and ACBI, and the proposed NLTPS.

44. A representative of one delegation commended the coordination that had taken place, particularly in conjunction with the bilateral cooperation between the Gambia and his own country and in the context of the structural adjustment programme. The delegation urged, however, that the lessons of the fourth cycle should be fully applied in the fifth. On a general note, the delegation commended UNDP on including clearer indications of the proportions of IPFs allocated to sectors, and percentage estimates for national execution. The improved assessment of previous programmes was welcomed, but doubt was expressed on the value of the Administrator's note, which the delegation suggested should be discontinued.

45. Another representative commended the close complementarity between the country programme and the bilateral programme financed by his own country in the area of agricultural diversification and environmental and natural resources management but expressed concern at the large number of objectives - 10 in all - with no precise financial allocations for each one.

46. In response, the Officer-in-Charge acknowledged the comments made, gave assurances that UNDP was ready to continue its support for economic management capacity-building beyond the fifth cycle and said that UNDP would take appropriate follow-up action on suggestions made.

47. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for the Gambia.

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Guinea

48. The Officer-in-Charge, RBA, presented the fifth country programme for Guinea (DP/CP/GUI/5), which entailed an IPF of $30.8 million and $25.5 million in UNDP-administered funds, of which $25 million came from UNCDF, the rest from UNSO and UNIFEM. Resources would be channelled towards the following areas of concentration: (a) assistance to the economic and financial recovery programme; (b) human resources development and the improvement of living conditions; (c) support for the private sector and the revitalization of industry.

49. The representative of the Government placed the country programme in the context of the major changes under way since 1985 to liberalize the economy and to transfer ownership and management of essential economic services from the public sector to the private sector. In this context, the role of the private sector in the creation of employment and income to compensate for declines in the bauxite sector and rice production was considered crucial. He reaffirmed that UNDP assistance was greatly appreciated and that it had an important part to play in this process, particularly in the area of training and capacity-building.

50. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Guinea.

Lesotho

51. The Resident Representative presented the fifth country programme for Lesotho (DP/CP/LES/5), which entailed an IPF of $19.6 million, cost-sharing of $0.7 million and UNDP-administered funds of $14.3 million from UNCDF, SPR, UNIFEM and UNV. UNDP cooperation would be focused on four main areas of concentration: (a) economic and social planning and financial management; (b) human resources development; (c) employment promotion; and (d) rural development.

52. The representative of the Government confirmed that the country programme synchronized well with the Government's objectives and national plan.

53. One delegation remarked that a total of 13 programmes were envisaged in the four areas of concentration and noted that, in view of the limited IPF, a more focused approach might be required.

54. Another delegation also noted the relatively large number of programmes and, while commending efforts to reduce the number of projects from 25 to 13, recommended further concentration. The delegation also noted the large number of long-term UNV specialists, many of whom occupied posts that should normally be filled by nationals. It therefore recommended that conditions be reviewed with a view to encouraging qualified nationals to remain in the country and to return from abroad, particularly from South Africa. UNDP should pay particular attention to training in areas of critical shortage, so as to

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reduce dependence on UNV specialists, and to the training of national programme managers.

55. In response, the Resident Representative provided clarifications and agreed to follow up as appropriate on the comments made.

56. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Lesotho.

Malawi

57. The Resident Representative in Malawi presented the fifth country programme for Malawi (DP/CP/MLW/5), entailing IPF resources of $62.1 million and estimated cost-sharing of $31.8 million. These funds would be oriented towards four programmes: (a) smallholder agricultural productivity; (b) small enterprise development; (c) social development; and (d) management for development, through an average of six components for each one.

58. In his presentation, the Resident Representative emphasized the distinctive characteristics of the programme, including a major collaborative effort between the Governments and donors in its preparation, its overall focus on poverty alleviation and human development, on the use of the programme approach in six local impact areas, and finally the emphasis on national execution.

59. Twelve delegations contributed to the discussion. All welcomed the programme and considered it to be imaginatively conceived and logically consistent. It focused on UNDP priority areas of capacity-building, particularly poverty eradication, grass-roots participation, institutional-building and the use of national execution.

60. Several delegations expressed concern, while recognizing the undoubted merits of the programme as presented, that the social, economic and political environment in the country would not enable it to obtain the results or the impact it deserved. One delegation cautioned that the country programme might be overambitious, and that it was essential to take into full consideration the recommendations of the Consultative Group meeting on Malawi, held at Paris on 11-12 May 1992.

61. Another delegation mentioned that it was not the purpose of the Standing Committee to rubber stamp a programme, of which the potential success could be jeopardized by extraneous factors. The delegation therefore endorsed a proposal to approve the programme for a year's duration, and to review the matter at the Governing Council the following year, in the light of the general situation in Malawi.

62. Some other delegations, including that of Malawi, argued that, for technical reasons, it would be difficult for both UNDP and the Government to put in place the necessary institutional and capacity-building arrangements,

staff deployment, training and logistics for such a short period as a year, and at the same time to obtain meaningful results that would provide an adequate basis for subsequent decision-making.

63. They also argued, as a matter of principle, that it was inappropriate to introduce a political dimension, on a selective basis, into the appraisal process of a country programme that all the delegations recognized as technically sound and well justified. It could be considered the equivalent of applying a precedent of political conditionality, and would thus run counter to the principle of the maintenance of neutrality by UNDP.

64. However, they did recognize that good governance and democracy were prerequisites for development and must be supported. They also reassured those present that the Government of Malawi had heard the message that the delegations concerned were trying to convey. They therefore favoured approval of the country programme for the full five-year period.

65. The Resident Representative believed that, by limiting approval to one year, the ultimate sufferers would be the very target groups which UNDP was proposing to help, thus slowing down and even disturbing the momentum of the massive work carried out in the preparation of a unique bottom-up appoach to alleviating poverty.

66. The Standing Committee decided to recommend that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Malawi subject to:

(a) A policy review, after one year, of the enabling social and political environment, and its effect on the implementation of the country programme;

(b) A technical review (in the form of a mid-term review) of the results of the country programme as soon as such a review would be meaningful.

Mali

67. The Officer-in-Charge, RBA, introduced the fifth country programme for Mali (DP/CP/MLI/5) which envisaged IPF resources of $60.4 million, and UNDP-administered funds of $37.2 million (UNCDF, UNSO, SPR and UNIFEM). The country programme proposed two main areas of concentration: (a) the satisfaction of basic needs and (b) improved management of the development process.

68. He mentioned the rigorous process of preparation undertaken and its consistency with the country's economic policy framework paper, a NATCAP exercise, and a number of national initiatives being undertaken relating to education, women and children, and rural development, with particular reference to the Tuareg population. He also mentioned that the country programme had been endorsed by the transitional Government and would in due course be reviewed by the new Government.

69. Two delegations made comments on the country programme. One considered that the programme was well focused, with an appropriate emphasis on capacity-building. It recommended that that emphasis be extended to assistance to the private sector and that it include credit schemes. The capacity of the field office was commented upon favourably, particularly its use of national expertise. The coordination role of UNDP could be strengthened, however, in terms of taking more initiative in the areas of the social dimensions of adjustment, human development and involvement of the village associations. The delegation questioned the priority given to civil aviation, tourism and telecommunications, and why there was apparently little given to women in development. It also remarked on an apparently high programme reserve (15 per cent).

70. Another delegation supported the programme and its overall approach, noting in particular its support for economic management, the environment, and the private sector.

71. In reply, the Officer-in-Charge, RBA, provided clarifications and promised to follow up on the comments received. He mentioned that the high programme reserve was due to the need for flexibility for the next Government. He also explained that women-in-development activities would be encouraged even if they were not fully reflected in the document.

72. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Mali.

Niger

73. The Officer-in-Charge, RBA, introduced the fifth country programme for Niger (DP/CP/NER/5) which entailed net IPF resources of $51.4 million, together with $14.5 million from UNCDF and $10 million from UNSO. These resources would be concentrated on three main themes: (a) improving environmental management and natural resources conservation; (b) developing human resources and combating poverty, and (c) enhancing economic management capacities.

74. One delegation noted the establishment of working groups for each theme, and the advantages for donor coordination. However, it felt that additional UNDP staff were not necessary for servicing these groups. The delegation also remarked on the need to establish criteria for evaluating the impact of programmes on women and urged that attention be given through the regional programme to the integration of nomadic groups.

75. Another delegation viewed the programme in positive terms and commended in particular the leadership of the resident representative in donor consultations and resource mobilization. The delegation was also pleased to note the integration into the country programme of the six areas of focus specified in Governing Council decision 90/34, as well as activities relating to the private sector and non-governmental organizations. The close

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integration of UNDP resources with those of other funds, particularly of UNSO and UNCDF, was favourably commented upon.

76. Addressing the Standing Committee in more general terms, the same delegation also recommended that country programmes should in future have a special section on human development, including the strategic use of the Human Development Report in country programme formulation.

77. A third delegation supported the programme and welcomed the coordination role of UNDP. Clarification was requested with respect to members of JCGP and the involvement of one United Nations specialized agency in the preparation of sectoral documents.

78. In reply, the Officer-in-Charge, RBA, gave assurances on the use of UNDP staff, on evaluation criteria for women in development, and on UNDP attention to the needs of nomadic groups through country programmes. He confirmed that the local JCGP group envisaged programming work and that all United Nations major specialized agencies participated in country programming.

79. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Niger.

Nigeria

80. The Resident Representative presented the fourth country programme for Nigeria (DP/CP/NIR/4) which entailed IPF resources of $124 million, $1.8 million in cost-sharing and $2.4 million in SPR funds. The programme was to concentrate on three main areas: (a) socio-economic management and sustainable development; (b) private sector support; and (c) human and participatory development.

81. The Resident Representative emphasized the fact that the country programme should be seen as a process of search for sustainable solutions, of dialogue with the Government and donors, and as a means of testing new modalities to maximize the impact of limited resources.

82. He also described the comprehensive preparatory process undertaken, involving 10 regional workshops, which had brought together about 60 specialists, half of whom were Nigerian and the rest from 11 United Nations specialized agencies, in the context of a major multisectoral needs assessment. The 12 cross-sectoral programmes for technical cooperation that had been formulated during the workshops provided a framework for national programme priorities and for the identification of technical cooperation needs - estimated at $1.3 billion. These would be followed by the preparation of national programmes on the basis of comprehensive baseline studies.

83. Two delegations expressed support for the country programme. One noted that the mid-term review had been very critical of certain aspects of the

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third country programme; however, little coverage had been given to the review in the fourth country programme. He urged that the lessons learned be fully taken into account in implementing the fourth country programme. The second delegation endorsed the overall thrust of the programme but considered that it might cover too many areas.

84. The representative of the Government confirmed that the country programme was closely aligned to the priorities of the national plan. He also welcomed the use of new modalities and urged the approval of the country programme.

85. In conclusion, the Resident Representative mentioned that space constraints were the major reason for not covering the recommendations of the mid-term review more fully. He affirmed that the lessons learned were being taken into consideration and that delivery rates had gone up from 39 per cent to 60 per cent as a result of more efficient procedures and cooperation with the Government. He also said that the country programme might seem diffuse, but noted also that it is very large; adequate programme formulation would ensure that integrated programming procedures would promote impact.

86. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fourth country programme for Nigeria.

Seychelles

87. The Officer-in-Charge, RBA, introduced the fourth country programme for the Seychelles (DP/CP/SEY/4), which has an IPF of $1.03 million for activities in two main areas: (a) human resources development and (b) environmental management.

88. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fourth country programme for the Seychelles.

Uganda

89. The Officer-in-Charge, RBA, introduced the fourth country programme for Uganda (DP/CP/UGA/4), which had a net IPF of $77.3 million and expected assistance from UNDP-administered funds of $16.7 million (UNCDF), $8.7 million (UNSO) and $6.8 million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

90. Four main areas of concentration were envisaged: (a) policy and management capacity; (b) AIDS and human survival; (c) poverty alleviation and rural development; and (d) preserving the environment and managing natural resources.

91. Several delegations commended the programme for its use of the programme approach, its choice of relevant target areas, particularly with reference to the serious socio-economic implications of HIV/AIDS, and its emphasis on capacity-building, environment and women in development. One delegation noted

that priorities were well defined and focused, that the number of projects had been reduced considerably, and that they were consistent with the country's Economic Recovery Programme.

92. The need for better coordination was discussed. The delegation, of one major donor country expressed regret that no real attempt had been made to coordinate with its local representative during the country programming exercise. He also cited the apparent duplication between a UNDP-assisted customs computerization project and a World Bank-assisted tax and revenue project. The Officer-in-Charge explained that the areas of concern were different, and that there was no duplication. One delegation, however, noted that local representatives had been consulted and were not experiencing any problem with aid coordination although better coordination was always necessary to avoid wasting resources. Another delegation affirmed the need to assist in establishing donor coordination mechanisms for the HIV/AIDS programme.

93. Another issue raised by some donors was their desire for a common policy on the question of incentive payments for counterparts. One delegation felt that such payments should be ended, as they were neither in the interest of donors nor of Uganda, and the necessary revenue should be generated internally.

94. The Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fourth country programme for Uganda.

Intercountry programme for Africa

95. The Officer-in-Charge, RBA, introduced the fourth intercountry programme for Africa, which had a net IPF of $141.6 million and estimated cost-sharing of $27 million.

96. These resources would be oriented towards the following areas of concentration: (a) regional cooperation and integration; (b) long-term strategic planning; (c) fostering an enabling environment for human development.

97. Two delegations commented on the intercountry programme. Although endorsing the broad goals, both of them considered that the ICP could benefit from more focus during the implementation phase. In particular, it was recommended that UNDP should concentrate on selected topics in the above areas, where UNDP had a comparative advantage, for instance agriculture, strategic planning and HIV/AIDS.

98. It was also suggested that strong links be established between the regional programme and the corresponding national and interregional/global programmes, particularly in areas relating to human development, where inter-agency coordination could be promoted at the field level, and where UNDP could play a catalytic role in strengthening capacity-building.

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99. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Couincil approve the fourth intercountry programme for Africa.

2. Extensions of country programmes

100. The Standing Committee recommended that th Governing Council take note of the approval by the Administrator of the extension for a period of one year of the following country programmes.

Angola

101. In the discussion concerning the extension of the second country programme for Angola (DP/CP/ANG/2/EXTENSION I), one delegation noted that preparations for the third country programme for Angola should be able to move ahead after completion of the current electoral process and that UNDP should be able to help in the process of economic recovery and sustainable development. Another delegation asked that UNDP assist the Government in the coordination of development activities.

102. The Officer-in-Charge, RBA, mentioned that UNDP was assisting the Government in the electoral process and was serving as an honest broker in the Government's negotiations with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Côte d'Ivoire

103. One delegation supported the extension of the fourth country programme for Côte d'Ivoire (DP/CP/IVC/4/EXTENSION I) and urged that preparation of the next country programme be conducted in close coordination with the World Bank and IMF.

104. The Officer-in-Charge, RBA, noted that good collaboration with those institutions was a feature of the current programme and would certainly be pursued.

Guinea-Bissau

105. In considering the extension for the third country programme for Guinea-Bissau (DP/CP/GBS/3/EXTENSION I), one delegation expressed concern that there were too many sectors (10) and too many projects (28) in UNDP activities and looked forward to a process of streamlining with carefully selected priorities.

106. The Officer-in-Charge, RBA, indicated that UNDP was helping the Government to redraft its country programme, based on a comprehensive NATCAP exercise, and to streamline its activities into four main themes.

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Mozambique

107. One delegation supported the approval of the extension of the third country programme for Mozambique (DP/CP/MOZ/3/EXTENSION I) but expressed concern at the apparent lack of linkage between the economic recovery programme and longer-term development. Another delegation, recognizing the major economic and security problems Mozambique has faced for many years, endorsed the extension while urging UNDP to focus its technical cooperation in its areas of comparative advantage and not diversify into non-priority areas. A further delegation mentioned that UNDP should be selective in institution-building, putting emphasis, for instance, on the areas of sectoral planning and provincial planning.

108. In reply, the Officer-in-Charge, RBA, recognized the validity of the above comments but stressed that the continuing emergency in Mozambique, coupled with drought and the high risk of famine, necessitated continued UNDP involvement in emergency-related matters. Nevertheless, it was foreseen that the fourth country programme would focus on such areas as the rural poor and poverty alleviation.

United Republic of Tanzania

109. In the discussion concerning the extension of the fourth country programme for the United Republic of Tanzania (DP/CP/URT/4/EXTENSION I), one delegation expressed concern that the apparent reasons for the delay in submitting the fifth country programme were the long hiatus before the arrival of the new Resident Representative and lack of a senior economist, which the delegation considered surprising in view of the least developed country status of the country.

110. The Officer-in-Charge, RBA, recognized the situation but said that the Government was also interested in delaying the preparation of the fifth country programme so that it could fully reflect the Government's own programmes. Since the Resident Representative post was already filled and that of Senior Economist would shortly be filled, the conditions were much improved for an effective country programming exercise.

111. The Standing Committee also recommended that the Governing Council take note of the approval by the Administrator of the extensions for a period of one year of the following country programmes in which no comments were made:

Equatorial Guinea (DP/CP/EQG/3/EXTENSION I);

Ethiopia (DP/CP/ETH/4/EXTENSION I);

Gabon (DP/CP/GAB/4/EXTENSION I);

Kenya (DP/CP/KEN/5/EXTENSION I);

Madagascar (DP/CP/MAG/4/EXTENSION I);

Mauritania DP/CP/MAU/3/EXTENSION I);

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Mauritius (DP/CP/MAR/4/EXTENSION I);

Sao Tome and Principe (DP/CP/STP/3/EXTENSION I);

Swaziland (DP/CP/SWA/4/EXTENSION I);

Togo (DP/CP/TOG/4/EXTENSION I);

Zaire (DP/CP/ZAI/4/EXTENSION I);

Zimbabwe (DP/CP/ZIM/2/EXTENSION I).

3. Project-by-project approvals

Assistance to Liberia

112. The Standing Committee agreed to the recommendation contained in document DP/1992/54 that in view of the situation prevailing in the country, UNDP resources should be approved on a project-by-project basis until further notice.

113. One delegation urged that assistance to public sector management should receive high priority and that preparatory work on the fifth country programme for Liberia should be encouraged. The Officer-in-Charge, RBA, confirmed that such was in fact the case and stated that the process of rehabilitation and reconstruction of the economy would receive high priority.

B. Arab States

114. The Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS), introduced the country programmes for six Arab States and described the economic situation of the region. He indicated that greater technical cooperation was needed to help Governments to meet the new challenges facing them and to consolidate the achievements realized to date. He also stressed the need to mobilize additional resources and to improve coordination of external assistance.

1. Country programme approvals

Jordan

115. The Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations Office at Geneva introduced the fifth country programme for Jordan (DP/CP/JOR/5). The net IPF of $5.8 million and estimated cost-sharing of $3 million would be concentrated in four main areas: (a) human resources development; (b) macroeconomic management; (c) national resources management; and (d) support to the productive sectors.

116. In stressing the extreme difficulties which the country had undergone as a result of the Gulf crisis, the extreme pressure put on its economy by its

many consequences, and the ongoing structural adjustment programme, the Jordanian representative highlighted the paradox of the decline of the IPF from $15 million in the fourth cycle to $5.8 million in the fifth. He mentioned that in the light of worsening socio-economic indicators, he hoped that the IPF would be increased once the necessary readjustments had been made.

117. Two delegations spoke in favour of the country programme. One of them considered that given the limited resources, the programme might be too ambitious to have a significant impact on the magnitude of problems faced. It nevertheless recognized the steady increase in national capacity.

118. In response, the Assistant Administrator invited donors to consider providing cost-sharing so as to strengthen potential impact. The Jordanian representative thanked the Assistant Administrator for his much appreciated contribution to his country during the difficult days of the Gulf crisis and for his role in the design of the fifth country programme.

119. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Jordan.

Morocco

120. The former Resident Representative presented the fourth country programme for Morocco (DP/CP/MOR/5), with a net IPF of $20 million and cost-sharing of $4.9 million. The resources would be oriented towards: (a) the strengthening of capacities for the management of economic and social development; (b) the development of human resources; and (c) the development and improvement of the management of natural resources.

121. The representative of Morocco described the changes that had been reflected in the thinking behind the proposed country programme, based on concentration in a few key areas, and a desire to move from being "assisted" to the status of equal partner. Four other delegations spoke in support of the country programme and its approach. One of them commended the conscious move to provide support to hinterland areas and on the policy to finance planning and pre-feasibility studies as a basis for resource mobilization. UNDP was also encouraged to play a stronger role in coordination among other donors and to strengthen government capacity in that regard.

122. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fourth country programme for Morocco.

Saudi Arabia

123. The Resident Representative introduced the fifth country programme for Saudi Arabia (DP/CP/SAU/5). Since Saudi Arabia has net contributor status there is no IPF; total resources of $88.2 million would be provided entirely by the Government.

124. The resources would be concentrated in five main areas: (a) macroeconomic planning and management; (b) strengthening of the productive sectors; (c) development of transport and communications; (d) human resources and social development; and (e) environment and natural resources management.

125. One delegation commended the country programme for its emphasis on human resources development and training as well as on the environment. It highlighted the need for close coordination, particularly within the organizations of the United Nations system present in the country. It also endorsed the potential role of UNDP in management development and women in development.

126. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Saudi Arabia.

Syrian Arab Republic

127. The Chief of the Division for Country Programmes, RBAS, introduced the fifth country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic (DP/CP/SYR/5), which would involve a net IPF of $13.5 million and estimated cost-sharing of $7.2 million. Resources would be concentrated on: (a) support to economic policy development and management; (b) environment and natural resources management; and (c) development of rural areas through sustainable agricultural production and human resources development.

128. Five delegations spoke in support of the country programme. One of them commended it for its attempt to provide catalytic upstream interventions in each of the areas of concentration, to apply a programme approach, and to support a national strategy for capacity-building. Another delegation considered it a balanced response to the priorities of the national development plan.

129. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic.

United Arab Emirates

130. The Resident Representative introduced the fifth country programme for the United Arab Emirates (DP/CP/UAE/5). Since the United Arab Emirates has net contributor status, the country programme will be financed entirely through cost-sharing of $14.1 million. Resources will be concentrated in the areas of: (a) economic planning and management; (b) economic diversification; (c) efficient management of public utilities; and (d) human resources development.

131. One delegation considered that UNDP cooperation should have been placed within the context of a clear statement of national priorities and that UNDP

might be able to help in preparing an appropriate planning framework. It also recommended that greater focus should be given to women in development in the context of human resources development activities.

132. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for the United Arab Emirates.

Yemen

133. The Chief of the Division for Country Programmes, RBAS, introduced the first country programme for the Republic of Yemen (DP/CP/YEM/5), which will have an IPF of $39.6 million, to be concentrated in the areas of:
(a) strategic planning; (b) management development; (c) human development; and
(d) natural resources management.

134. Six delegations spoke in support of the country programme, including one from the Government of Yemen. In the discussion, note was taken of the crippling problems that the newly unified country had had to contend with in the recent past, caused by the institutional adjustments of combining two different governmental structures; the repatriation of nearly one million Yemenis as a result of the Gulf war and the loss of remittances from them; droughts; earthquakes; and unemployment.

135. One delegation noted the particular comparative advantage of political neutrality that had enabled UNDP, as one of the few major donors, to play a catalytic role in facilitating the transition process. In addition, the country programme reflected well the six areas of focus specified in Governing Council decision 90/34. The organization of a round-table meeting for donors for July 1992 was also giving UNDP a strategic role in resource mobilization and donor coordination. However, the strengthening of coordination efforts was recommended by several delegations.

136. One delegation noted certain similarities of the unification process in Yemen with that of his own country. He mentioned the difficult adjustments required and the fact that Yemen had been a significant recipient of its bilateral cooperation. He indicated that his country would be interested in seeing a strengthening of complementarity with UNDP in their respective programmes. Another delegation wished to see a clearer ranking of priorities in the various activities that were to receive UNDP assistance and also suggested that due priority should be given to women in development.

137. In reply, the Chief of the Division for Country Programmes took note of the comments made and thanked delegations for the support given. He was pleased that one donor had taken the initiative to strengthen coordination in the health field. He underlined the importance of the forthcoming round-table meeting, and urged donors to respond appropriately.

138. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the first country programme for Yemen.

2. Extensions of country programmes

139. The Assistant Administrator, RBAS, informed the Standing Committee that the Administrator had approved the extension of the following country programmes for a period of one year, from 1 January 1992. In endorsing these approvals, a number of delegations made comments on some of them, which are summarized below:

(a) Algeria (DP/CP/ALG/5/EXTENSION I). The delegation of this country recognized the need for flexibility and thus the need to postpone the preparation of the fifth country programme pending clarification of national priorities;

(b) Bahrain (DP/CP/BAH/4/EXTENSION I). One delegation suggested that greater attention should be given to women in development and national execution in this country programme;

(c) Djibouti (DP/CP/DJI/2/EXTENSION I). One delegation welcomed evidence of improved coordination and exchange of information among donors and suggested that there was scope for exploring joint multilateral and bilateral cooperation possibilities with his country;

(d) Egypt (DP/CP/EGY/4/EXTENSION I). One delegation welcomed the new orientations of UNDP cooperation based on use of the programme approach, but questioned whether its emphasis on upstream and strategic interventions might be too remote from operational priorities, thus pointing to the need for identifying donors to assist in more operational areas. It also recommended that the fairly rapid transition towards national execution which was envisaged in the Egypt country programme might be too rapid and should be closely linked to national capacity-building in this area. Another delegation stressed the need for strengthening donor coordination and hoped that the new database project on external cooperation would help to improve coordination;

(e) Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (DP/CP/LIB/4/EXTENSION I);

(f) Oman (DP/CP/OMA/EXTENSION I). One delegation stressed the need for greater attention to the development of Omani human resources, particularly in the areas of vocational training;

(g) Qatar (DP/CP/QAT/2/EXTENSION I). One delegation questioned whether the continued existence of a UNDP office in Qatar was justified and might not be better served by a regional office. In response, the Assistant Administrator said that the Qatar Government had requested a UNDP office in the country, and was willing to provide the necessary funding and cost-sharing in accordance with Governing Council decision 91/29 on preparations for the fifth programming cycle;

(h) Sudan (DP/CP/SUD/3/EXTENSION I). The effective coordination efforts of UNDP in Sudan were particularly appreciated by the Government of one delegation. The Sudanese delegation confirmed that his country was indeed making effective coordination efforts;

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(i) Regional Programme for the Arab States (DP/RAB/2/EXTENSION I). The Assistant Administrator mentioned that the main reason for the extension was to provide more time to design and implement a funding strategy that would compensate for the considerable reduction of the fifth cycle IPF from $50 million to $30 million, almost all of which was committed in the fourth cycle.

3. Project-by-project approvals

Kuwait

140. The Assistant Administrator and Director, RBAS, advised the Standing Committee of the recommendation of the Administrator to approve projects on a case-by-case basis owing to the current situation in the country and the difficulties of carrying out long-term planning. He assured the Committee that a country programme would be prepared as soon as it was feasible. The programme would be based partly on the recommendations of the Gulf Task Force report and would take into account realistic estimates of cost-sharing once they had been obtained.

141. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the proposal to approve projects on a project-by-project basis for Kuwait.

Lebanon

142. The Assistant Administrator introduced the recommendation of the Administrator to approve assistance to Lebanon on a case-by-case basis owing to the need for sufficient time to prepare a country programme after the many years of civil war. He mentioned that progress had been made towards identifying priority areas, particularly in the context of the multisectoral needs assessment mission of July 1991. These would relate to: (a) emergency rehabilitation; (b) infrastructure reconstruction; (c) social development; (d) national planning and public administration; and (e) the environment.

143. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the proposal to approve projects on a case-by-case basis for Lebanon.

C. Asia and the Pacific

1. Country programme approvals

Bhutan

144. The Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP), introduced the fifth country programme for Bhutan (DP/CP/BHU/5), which entailed an IPF of $24.5 million, with estimated cost-sharing of $1 million and expected or tentative resources from

UNDP-administered funds of $16 million from UNCDF, $0.2 million from UNIFEM and $1 million from SPR.

145. These resources would be concentrated in: (a) development of human resources; (b) efficiency in government and development of the private sector; (c) sustainability in natural resources management; and (d) regionally balanced development.

146. In addition to the representative of the Government of Bhutan, six delegations spoke in favour of the country programme, of which two had participated in the Committee's recent field visit there. Most of the delegations commented favourably on the focus of the programme and the strategy adopted and on its close conformity with the priorities of the Government's seventh five-year plan. Effective coordination within the United Nations system, particularly with the JCGP agencies, and with other donors, and the successful round-table meeting held in March 1992 were also commended. Some delegations also supported the idea of the Bhutan Environment and Conservation Trust Fund.

147. The delegations also noted the encouraging achievements made by the Government in many areas of the economy during the last plan, particularly those relating to human resources development, for which UNDP support had been significant. However, one delegation wondered why the concept of human development had not been more explicitly used in the text, while another asked in similar terms about women in development.

148. Other delegations noted the use of a wide range of implementation modalities, including UNV. The increased momentum to be given to national execution, with the proviso that flexibility in numerical targets should be maintained, was also endorsed.

149. In his response, the government representative thanked the Committee for its support and reassured them that even if not mentioned under each area of concentration, women played an important role in Bhutan and that there was a particular need to increase women's participation in the development process.

150. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Bhutan.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

151. The Assistant Administrator and Director, RBAP, presented the fifth country programme for the Lao People's Democratic Republic (DP/CP/LAO/5), which has a net IPF of $36.5 million, cost-sharing of $4.9 million, and complementary assistance from the UNCDF of $12.2 million and $1.2 million from SPR. These resources would be focused on: (a) support to the new economic mechanism; (b) development of the physical infrastructure; and (c) human resource development.

152. Two delegations spoke in support of the country programme. Its basic thrust was supported, as well as some of its features, for example, those relating to the use of UNV specialists, grass-roots development, women in development, the environment, and the increasing emphasis on national execution. The inclusion of UNIFEM and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) as integral parts of the programme and the reduction of the number of projects were also commended.

153. However, observations were made that coordination needs to be strengthened among the organizations of the United Nations system in the country and that considerable training would be required, particularly for national execution.

154. The Assistant Administrator thanked delegates for their support for the programme, which he considered to be good, and agreed to convey delegates' views to the Resident Representative for follow-up as appropriate.

155. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Malaysia

156. The Assistant Administrator and Director, RBAP presented the Malaysia country programme (DP/CP/MAL/5), which has a net IPF of $7.1 million and expected cost-sharing of $8.2 million. The programme would be concentrated on three areas: (a) human skills for the 1990s; (b) technology for the 1990s; and (c) management of the environment in the 1990s.

157. It was noted that Malaysia had done exceptionally well in exploiting its natural and human resources and had attained a relatively high level of human development, with a human development index of 51 out of 160. It expected to enter the category of newly industrialized countries (NICs) within the next 10 years, and of developed countries by 2025. Thus, the point to be considered related to the relevance and role of UNDP cooperation in such a context, particularly in view of the modest IPF.

158. The representative of Malaysia stated that national execution would be the preferred modality of execution, that training would be required so that the country would be able to meet its requirements, and that Malaysia was keenly interested in technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) as well as in the extension of technical cooperation to other countries.

159. Six delegations supported the country programme, and commended the Government for the results achieved in its overall economic management. One delegation asked whether UNDP intended to disseminate the positive lessons to be drawn from Malaysia's experience for the benefit of other countries.

160. The same delegation questioned UNDP's ability to deliver, given the large carry-over of cost-sharing from the fourth cycle, shown in the financial

summary (annex I), and the apparently unrealistic coverage of virtually all themes, as shown in the programme matrix (annex II).

161. Another delegation, in considering Malaysia's economic status, asked what the role and impact of UNDP would be in the total development effort, what its added value would be, and what relationship existed between UNDP and other donors.

162. In reply, the Malaysian representative said that his country would be pleased to share its experience with other developing countries and to discuss the most effective way of disseminating such information with UNDP.

163. With respect to delivery, the Assistant Administrator assured delegations that there had indeed been full delivery of the fourth cycle IPF, and that cost-sharing resources had been carried over to the fifth cycle. He added that it was unlikely that a balance would be carried over into the sixth cycle, since the new programme was much more relevant to Malaysia's emerging priorities. He agreed that due attention should be given to the training of government staff in the modalities of national execution. He also highlighted the importance of a change in terminology, through the use of the term national management instead of national execution, in order to avoid creating confusion in the minds of Governments.

164. With respect to other donors, he said that, in view of the country's status, there were few traditional donors, and the UNDP role in assisting with coordination was thus relatively modest, although appreciated.

165. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Malaysia.

Nepal

166. The Resident Representative presented the fifth country programme for Nepal (DP/CP/NEP/5) with a net IPF of $72.9 million and $0.3 million in cost-sharing. In addition, complementary assistance from UNDP-administered funds was also expected: $13.2 million from UNCDF, $585,000 from SPR, $354,000 from the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries (SMF/LDC) and $88,000 from UNIFEM.

167. The above resources will be concentrated in two main areas: (a) human development and poverty alleviation, through development policy and management; strengthening of the productive sectors for the generation of income and employment; and access to basic services for the poor, and (b) environmental conservation, through natural resources protection and management and urban development and industrial pollution control.

168. In addition to the representative of the Government of Nepal, nine delegations spoke in support of the programme. They noted its focus on two main areas. They also noted the use of many modalities which should improve

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the impact of the programme; for instance, the use of United Nations volunteers, and thematic orientations relating to women in development, grass-roots participation, etc., and coordination with donors at various levels.

169. However, several delegations remarked that despite the improved focus, activities were still envisaged in too wide a number of areas, thus giving the impression of excessive dispersion. Furthermore, one delegation noted that some of the lessons drawn from the mid-term review, at which the issue was discussed, should have been reflected in the country programme document.

170. One delegation commented that because of the existence of larger donors in certain areas (for instance the Asian Development Bank (AsDB) in the areas of small and medium-scale enterprises, private-sector development and energy), where UNDP had up to then performed a gap-filling role, UNDP should no longer be involved.

171. Other delegations mentioned the need for the effective coordination of activities, in addition to the normal sharing of information among donors. That should also include assistance to strengthen government capacity in the area. The country programme did identify the various donors involved in each sector, and for which sectoral level coordination would be required.

172. Another delegation mentioned the need to strengthen capacity in the area of policy analysis and development administration and management.

173. In response, the Resident Representative took note of the comments made and promised to take them into consideration during subsequent programme and project implementation. He also provided delegates with more details on how it was envisaged that proposed activities would contribute to the two major areas of focus with their corresponding programmes.

174. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Nepal.

Thailand

175. The Regional Representative presented the fifth country programme for Thailand (DP/CP/THA/5) which had a net IPF of $27.1 million. These resources would be concentrated in three interlocking themes of human development: (a) income distribution and regional prosperity, (b) environment and natural resources management, and (c) human resources development.

176. In addition to the representative of the Thai Government, nine delegations spoke in favour of the country programme. The strategy of concentrating UNDP cooperation in five or six core programmes, thus reducing the large number of projects undertaken in the fourth cycle, was especially commended. Thailand's particular status as a country that had made substantial socio-economic progress over the past 20 years was also noted.

177. However, major problems had been identified, relating, for example, to HIV/AIDS and to the environment. One delegation expressed its satisfaction that these had been addressed in the country programme, and recommended that UNDP should play an appropriate coordinating role, particularly in the context of the WHO/UNDP Alliance to Combat Aids.

178. The Assistant Administrator warmly thanked the Thai Government for its decision to increase its voluntary contribution to UNDP by approximately 10 per cent at the next Pledging Conference.

179. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Thailand.

2. Country programme extensions

Islamic Republic of Iran

180. The Associate Assistant Administrator presented the Administrator's request to the Governing Council (DP/CP/IRA/4/EXTENSION I) for the extension of the fourth country programme for the Islamic Republic of Iran, for the period 1992-1993, with IPF resources of $3.8 million.

181. The extension would enable a continuation of activities in each of the three areas covered by the country programme: (a) economic growth and reconstruction, (b) education, science and technology, and (c) reform of public administration.

182. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the extension of the fourth country programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran for a period of two years, 1992-1993.

183. The Standing Committee also recommended that the Governing Council take note of the extensions for a period of one year of the following country programmes, on which no comments were made: Papua New Guinea (DP/CP/PNG/4/EXTENSION I); Republic of Korea (DP/CP/ROK/4/EXTENSION I).

3. Project-by-project approvals

Afghanistan

184. The Assistant Administrator and Director, RBAP, presented the Administrator's request (DP/1992/64) for authorization by the Governing Council to continue to appraise and approve projects in the fifth cycle on a project-by-project basis.

185. The proposal was made in view of the continuing strife in Afghanistan and the difficulties in formulating a country programme. It was understood, however, that when conditions permitted, the preparation of the third country programme would be initiated.

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186. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council authorize the Administrator to approve projects on a case-by-case basis for Afghanistan.

Cambodia

187. The Assistant Administrator presented the note by the Administrator on assistance to Cambodia (DP/1992/56), which recommends approval by the Governing Council of the use of IPF resources during the transition period (1992-1993) until a freely and fairly elected government is in place in Cambodia to formulate the country's reconstruction and development plans. This would then provide the framework for a regular country programme, which could be presented to the Council in 1994. Pending the formulation and approval of the programme, the Administrator would approve all projects on a project-by-project basis.

188. This approval would involve the commitment, during the period up to 31 December 1993, of $40 million out of the total available IPF resources for Cambodia of $81.6 million. This is made up of the balance of unspent funds of $40.3 million from the third and fourth cycles plus the currently established fifth cycle IPF of $41.3 million.

189. It was recognized that Cambodia now stood on the threshold of considerable development opportunities following the establishment of the Supreme National Council (SNC) in September 1990 and of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), and in view of the renewed international attention focused on the country. Many donors are making commitments, and the proposed Ministerial Conference on the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Cambodia, to be co-hosted by the Government of Japan and UNDP in Tokyo in June 1992, should provide further expressions of commitment to the peace and rehabilitation process.

190. Three delegations spoke in support of the proposal. One delegation emphasized the need for substantial in-country training, and recourse to non-governmental agencies. It also stressed the need for effective coordination with donors, and for realistic estimates of requirements. The delegation also expressed the view that UNDP should not pre-empt eventual decisions that should rightfully be made by an elected government.

191. Another delegation emphasized the importance of rehabilitation efforts and the need for coordination so as to avoid duplication. A third delegation thanked UNDP for organizing a large number of fact-finding missions (see para. 4 of DP/1992/56), for preparing comprehensive documentation on needs, and for the important role which the UNDP field office in Phnom Penh was playing. The same delegation expressed its country's desire to contribute to the rehabilitation process and to the work of UNTAC, and stressed the need for UNDP to strengthen its role in the areas of rehabilitation, reconstruction and coordination. Its country looked forward to working closely with UNDP in connection with the Ministerial Conference in Tokyo in June 1992.

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192. In reply, the Assistant Administrator agreed that donor coordination was crucial and challenging. He said that, pending the necessary institutional capacity-building, UNDP was helping the UNTAC Director of Rehabilitation by acting as the repository of data and as a de facto secretariat. He also described the new major projects requested by the SNC in August 1991 to provide humanitarian, training, rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance to all Cambodians. This was being undertaken through two projects totalling $12 million. One project provided, inter alia, for the return to Cambodia of former Soviet bilateral assistance teachers as UNV specialists.

193. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council authorize the Administrator to approve projects on a project-by-project basis for Cambodia.

Myanmar

194. The Assistant Administrator introduced the note by the Admnistrator on assistance to the Union of Myanmar (DP/1992/63), in which the Governing Council was requested to approve assistance to Myanmar until further notice, on a project-by-project basis. Such approvals would be guided by Council decision 90/34 and within the limits of the annual pro rata distribution of the IPF for Myanmar in the fifth programming cycle. The request was being made in the light of the current situation in the country and in the absence of a national development plan.

195. Four delegations commented favourably on the request. However, one delegation, speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community, and supported by one other delegation, recommended that any new project interventions should abide by certain parameters, namely that they should be targeted to the poor, for training, health and food security, and for environmental protection, but only if the executing agency and United Nations staff could work with the people of the country without restrictions and also have free access to them. The delegation also requested that the assistance provided should be reported on to the Governing Council on an annual basis.

196. Another delegation maintained a similar position, adding that only projects related to grass-roots development and the protection of the environment should be approved. The resource balance of about $33 million, which the delegation understood was available from the fourth cycle, should be used for that purpose.

197. In reply, the Assistant Administrator mentioned that after further clarification, the $33 million mentioned above had in fact been committed and was therefore not available. Thus, any new project would have to be financed under the fifth cycle IPF. He agreed, however, to the Committee's request for annual project reporting, together with justification of any new projects.

198. Four delegations then expressed concern at the new information that had been provided to them about the unavailability of the balance from the fourth

cycle. A final decision was thus postponed until further clarification could be obtained and consultations completed.

199. Subsequently, additional information was received and distributed in a conference room paper (DP/1992/CRP.7), in which a detailed breakdown sector by sector, and project by project, of the fourth cycle resources situation was given. It was thus confirmed that of the $95.1 million of available resources for the fourth cycle, $37.2 million represented commitments for 1992 to 1994.

200. After further informal discussions, the Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council adopt the draft decision contained in document DP/1992/L.16.

Pacific island countries

1. Country programme approvals

201. The Assistant Administrator and Director, RBAP introduced seven country programmes for the Pacific Island countries: the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tokelau and Tuvalu. Together, they represented IPFs of $15.7 million, with a carry-over from the fourth cycle of $1 million. He explained that the programmes, although presented together, had been separately developed by the respective Governments and Resident Representatives in the Pacific islands in order to reflect individual country circumstances and priorities.

202. He highlighted the difficulties faced by these island countries in terms of small size and population, geographical isolation, limited natural resources, vulnerability to natural disasters, and heavy dependence on external assistance.

203. He stressed the particular challenge faced by UNDP to make the best use of small IPFs through strategic interventions, which would be closely coordinated with the inputs of other donors. He noted the strong convergence of priority needs in human development identified by the seven Governments for UNDP intervention, namely: (a) support to disadvantaged groups; (b) income generation; employment and private sector development; (c) public sector administration; and (d) environmental and sustainable development.

204. He also highlighted the role of UNDP in facilitating aid coordination, particularly through the round-table process, and the need to ensure close linkages with regional development projects.

205. Six delegations expressed support for the country programmes presented for their consideration. One of them conveyed his delegation's satisfaction that the programmes were being presented as a group whereas another expressed some concern. Both shared the Assistant Administrator's view that each country was different and that the individual characteristics and special needs of each one should be taken into consideration. The themes of the

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programmes were supported, and the stronger focus was appreciated by three delegations. One delegation, however, cautioned that UNDP's intent to be flexible should not lead to the loss of this concentration during programme implementation. Particular emphasis was placed on the need for attention to the two themes of private sector development and the environment, as well as on coordination. One delegation indicated it had detailed comments on the seven programmes and would provide them to UNDP for consideration during programme implementation.

206. With respect to aid coordination the UNDP commitment to the round-table process was appreciated by three delegations. It was urged that collaborative mechanisms with the World Bank and ASDB should be strengthened. UNDP was requested to confirm as soon as possible the date of the next round-table meeting which should continue to be held in the region, and not in Geneva, and should provide help in the area of national strategic planning. One delegation considered that the round-table process had not been as successful as it might have been, and that greater emphasis should be placed on *a priori* critical economic and policy analysis to provide an appropriate framework for policy, programme and project formulation, rather than using round-table meetings essentially as pledging conferences. Another delegation noted how important the round-table process has been for Pacific island countries, and proposed that all these countries should avail themselves of this facility, which had already led to improved policy dialogue and aid coordination for some Pacific countries.

207. In its response the Administration reiterated that each country is indeed treated individually in the light of its particular situation, hence the preparation of individual country programmes. The presentation in regional terms was for reasons of convenience, as well as to make for the retention of a regional perspective to facilitate linkages with the intercountry programme. The need to improve the focus and coordination of aid to Pacific island countries was acknowledged. The suggestions for further improvements in the round-table process were noted, and were already being addressed in collaboration with the ASDB in order to enhance the effectiveness of the process.

Cook Islands

208. The third country programme for the Cook Islands (DP/CP/CKI/3 had a net IPF of $987,000, as well as $44,000 in cost-sharing and $145,000 from SPR. These resources would be concentrated in three major areas: (a) tourism development, (b) disadvantaged groups, and (c) management capacity-building.

209. At the outset of the discussion, the meeting was informed with regret that the Cook Islands had just experienced a devastating fire, which had destroyed many of the Government's buildings and records at an estimated cost of NZ$ 7 million or the equivalent of 7 per cent of the gross national product (GNP). The delegation of a donor country noted that the cost of the damage represented the equivalent of half that donor's total Overseas Development

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Assistance to the country. Many delegations expressed their regrets about the fire and their hope that the Administrator would give consideration to the use of SPR resources if the Government of the Cook Islands so requested. It was noted by the Assistant Administrator that the serious fire would not alter the development themes in the country programme.

210. Four delegations supported the country programme. One delegation endorsed the special focus on tourism development and increased attention to the development of the outer islands. The importance of aid coordination was stressed.

211. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the third country programme for the Cook Islands.

Kiribati

212. The third country programme for Kiribati (DP/CP/KIR/3) had a net IPF of $2.8 million and estimated cost-sharing of $40,000, as well as resources from UNCDF of $0.5 million. These would be oriented towards the folllowing areas of concentration: (a) rural development, (b) industrial and private sector development, and (c) development administration.

213. One delegation observed that projects proposed in fisheries and tourism development might face difficulties owing to constraints in the small, scattered islands, and another delegation added a word of caution about the prospects for identifying sufficient local employment opportunities for skilled people. Another delegation observed that the information provided in the UNDP development cooperation report for Kiribati was consistently unreliable, particularly with regard to his own country, whose contribution was underestimated.

214. These deficiencies were regretted by the Administration, but the point was made that the data provided could only be as good as those provided by donors. He therefore urged them to ensure that full and up-to-date information was given so that it could be correctly reflected in the development cooperation report.

215. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the third country programme for Kiribati.

Niue

216. The fourth country programme for Niue (DP/CP/NIU/4) had a net IPF of $735,000, and an estimated $100,000 from SPR for disaster rehabilitation. IPF resources would be oriented towards three main areas of concentration: (a) promotion of private sector development, (b) health services, and (c) management development.

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217. One delegation questioned whether the country programme had been fully discussed and cleared with the Government. While the importance of private sector development was acknowledged, the question was raised whether the Government had agreed to the high proportion (50 per cent) of the IPF that was being earmarked for that purpose, for which the country represented by that delegation already provided considerable assistance to Niue in the area of credit.

218. In reply, it was confirmed that the country programme had been prepared in consultation with the Government, which had approved the proposed earmarkings for private sector development. As indicated in the country programme (paras. 15 and 17), UNDP cooperation would complement the support provided to the business sector by the Niuean Government and the country of the delegation in question.

219. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fourth country programme for Niue.

Samoa

220. The fifth country programme for Samoa (DP/CP/SAM/5) had a net IPF of $5.1 million, with estimated cost-sharing of $52,000 and $300,000 from SPR for disaster reconstruction after the recent cyclones and a disaster preparedness and mitigation programme. The most recent round-table meeting, in 1991, had contributed to the identification of needs and the role of UNDP.

221. The IPF and cost-sharing resources would be oriented towards the following areas of concentration: (a) revitalization of the primary sector and employment creation, (b) management improvements in the public sector, and (c) health and education sector support. It was noted that the first of these included programme activities related to agriculture and rural development, which had a bearing on the needs arising from both the prior major cyclone and the cyclone of December 1991, even though the latter occurred after the country programme had been conceived and formulated.

222. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Samoa.

Solomon Islands

223. The fifth country programme for the Solomon Islands (DP/CP/SOL/5) had a net IPF of $4.0 million, which had been earmarked for the following areas of concentration: (a) entrepreneurial training and development; (b) health improvement for disadvantaged groups; (c) forestry resource management; and (d) strengthening of development management capacity.

224. One delegation said that the fifth country programme was a considerable improvement on the fourth, because it was more focused. Another delegation

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expressed concern as to whether the impact of the proposed assistance would be sustainable, especially in the forestry and water sectors, given the considerable difficulties experienced in the fourth cycle in assigning, training and retaining counterparts. Policy and coordination in the important forestry sector should be given special attention.

225. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for the Solomon Islands.

Tokelau

226. The third country programme for Tokelau (DP/CP/TOK/3) had a net IPF of $1.3 million, together with $0.3 million from SPR for the reconstruction of seawalls to guard against cyclone damage. The IPF resources would be oriented towards one main area of concentration, namely the development of telecommunications, with projects outside that area relating to management capacity-building for public administration and water supplies.

227. One delegation supported those priorities, particularly for telecommunications, but also drew attention to the need for better sea links and particularly for an ongoing commitment to cover the recurring costs of the inter-atoll vessel currently covered by his country. Close aid coordination with UNDP should be continued.

228. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the third country programme for Tokelau.

Tuvalu

229. The third country programme for Tuvalu (DP/CP/TUV/3) had a net IPF of $1.8 million, to be channelled towards three main areas of concentration: (a) education and vocational training, (b) outer island economic development, and (c) economic and financial management. The importance of the round-table process was cited as a key factor in determining the programme and facilitating aid coordination.

230. One delegation noted the dearth of good projects and the difficulties of identifying new ones that had a long-run potential for impact.

231. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the third country programme for Tuvalu.

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2. Country programme extensions

Vanuatu

232. The Associate Administrator informed the Standing Committee of the Administrator's approval of the extension of the second country programme for Vanuatu for one year beginning 1 January 1992 (DP/CP/VAN/2/EXTENSION I).

233. The reason for the extension was the deferral of the formulation process for the third country programme while policy decisions were being taken by the new Government elected in late 1991, and strategies and plans were being finalized.

234. The extension would provide time for the formulation of the new country programme in 1992, and submission to the Governing Council at its fortieth session (June 1993). In the meantime, the focus of the extension phase of the programme would remain substantially unchanged, namely the implementation of programmes for human resources development, private sector development and employment creation.

235. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council take note of the extension of the second country programme for Vanuatu.

Fifth intercountry programme for Asia and the Pacific

236. The Assistant Administrator and Director, RBAP, presented the fifth intercountry programme for Asia and the Pacific (DP/RAP/2), which had a net indicative planning figure (IPF) of $160.9 million, and estimated contributions of $5 million from cost-sharing and $2 million from SPR.

237. Three major themes were envisaged for UNDP cooperation: (a) human development through poverty alleviation, (b) economic management and reform, and (c) environmental and natural resource management. Within those themes, 16 programme areas provided the framework for individual regional and subregional programmes.

238. Eleven delegations endorsed the intercountry programme and made a number of observations. While commending the detailed process of consultations with regional organizations, Governments and specialized agencies, two delegations were critical of the formulation process, particularly with respect to the lack of adequate debate at the meeting of aid coordinators in January 1992.

239. Many delegations commented favourably on the overall substantive thrust of the programme and on the consistency of its orientations with the Governing Council priority areas of focus for capacity-building. They noted with regret its sharp reduction in resources from a $228 million IPF in the fourth cycle, to $160 million for the fifth cycle. One delegation recommended that resources should be considerably increased through greater attention to resource mobilization.

240. Some delegations also commented favourably on certain features relating to implementation and management arrangements, for instance, collaboration with the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), greater involvement of UNDP field offices and regional, government and non-governmental agencies in formulating, implementing and monitoring regional programmes, expanded use of region-based resources, and stronger linkages with country programmes and SPR. They urged that particular attention be given to those aspects. One delegation also endorsed the greater use of UNV specialists and Domestic Development Services field workers.

241. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth intercountry programme for Asia and the Pacific.

D. Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States

1. Country programme approvals

Czech and Slovak Federal Republic

242. The Director of the Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (DEC) presented the fourth country programme for the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic (DP/CP/CZE/4), for which the total resources programmed were the IPF of $2.4 million, and estimated cost-sharing contributions of $10 million.

243. The above resources had been earmarked for six major thematic areas of concentration: (a) restructuring of the economy and support to the private sector; (b) management development, training and human resources development; (c) environmental management; (d) telecommunications development; (e) national statistics; and (f) umbrella activities.

244. Four delegations spoke in favour of the country programme. One delegation expressed satisfaction that the programme took into consideration the main areas of focus for capacity-building specified in Governing Council decision 90/34 of 23 June 1990. The delegation also urged further coordination among bilateral donors.

245. In response, the Director, DEC, recognized that a shift of emphasis in programme priorities had taken place, and that the criteria to be applied for examining project proposals had also been refined. He mentioned that programme implementation had been slow, but that there had been an interruption for a few years in the recipient status of the country. Furthermore, the lack of a physical presence in the country had not helped project delivery in the past. He agreed to contact other donors and the Government to review what could be done to improve coordination, especially bearing in mind the need for national capacity-building in that area.

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246. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fourth country programme for the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.

Hungary

247. The Director, DEC, presented the fifth country programme for Hungary (DP/CP/HUN/5). The programme entailed a net IPF of $1.8 million, with additional reserves of $10 million to be mobilized at a later date. These resources would be oriented towards four main areas of concentration: (a) private sector development; (b) management development; (c) environmental management and information systems; and (d) human development monitoring.

248. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Hungary.

Poland

249. The Director, DEC, presented the fifth country programme for Poland (DP/CP/POL/5), with a net IPF of $3.8 million and estimated cost-sharing and government cash counterpart contributions of $8 million.

250. Resources would be concentrated in the following four programme areas:

(a) Developing human resources and social services through: (i) social safety nets and social market economy; (ii) management education and training; and (iii) administrative capability development;

(b) Developing market-economy institutions through (i) ownership transformations; (ii) ownership responsibility; (iii) entrepreneurship; and (iv) public awareness;

(c) Developing ecological and environment infrastructure through: (i) environmental management and (ii) environmental education;

(d) Umbrella project for the provision of advisory services to facilitate Poland's economic reform.

251. One delegation spoke in support of the Poland country programme, commending it for its priorities and mechanisms, and for the close collaboration between UNDP and the Government in its formulation. He also expressed the need for increased coordination among bilateral donors.

252. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Poland.

Regional programme for Europe

253. The Director, DEC, introduced the third regional programme for Europe, with a net IPF of $4.2 million and estimated cost-sharing of $250,000. These resources would be concentrated in the areas of (a) private sector development, (b) environment and energy, and (c) transport and communications.

254. A corrigendum was submitted by the participating countries to replace the last sentence of paragraph 30, page 10, relating to the Turn-around Management Programme (TAM), to read as follows: "Further consultations with respect to the nature and financing of the project shall take place between the Administrator and the participating Governments prior to the launching of the project" (see DP/REU/3/Corr.1).

255. One delegation expressed concern that during the high-level debate some representatives had requested additional information on some of the projects in the regional programme to enable Governments and UNDP to make the most effective response to the needs of the region. The delegation recommended that approval of the third regional programme be postponed and that the second country programme be extended for one year.

256. Another delegation referred to its request in the high-level debate for the inclusion of two projects relating to the Trans-European Motorway (TEM) and the Trans-European Railway (TER). The delegation added that the last two words of document DP/REU/3/Corr.1 should be replaced by the words "any project activities".

257. Another delegation mentioned that after further discussions between UNDP and the delegations concerned, satisfactory clarifications had been received on the preparation of the regional programmes. The delegation now supported the regional programme as proposed, provided that: (a) further consultations would take place on follow-up to the TAM proposal and (b) that the new programme would not prejudice fourth cycle projects for which funds had already been allocated and support provided by the participating countries.

258. In the light of the above, and of the clarifications received, the delegation felt that the fifth cycle programme reflected better the many changes in the region and appealed for the withdrawal of the proposal to postpone consideration of the regional programme, otherwise some important regional programme activities would not be able to start on time. Another delegation made a similar appeal.

259. Several delegations urged the maintenance of follow-up studies on the TER and TEM links, particularly the TER in its current approved form.

260. Another delegation considered that the regional programme would provide valuable complementary assistance to that envisaged in country programmes. However, it urged UNDP to provide greater information on project and programme finances, as well as on their results and impact. It also endorsed the idea that UNDP resources should be used as seed money for design and resource

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mobilization purposes, but felt that they should also be used for implementation.

261. Commenting on the above, the Director, DEC, concluded that there was considerable potential for regional cooperation in a rapidly changing environment. There was also potential for "South-East" cooperation, to complement North-South or South-South cooperation. He reassured delegations that the proposed third regional programme for Europe was the result of extensive consultations with the Governments and organizations concerned. There would nevertheless always be scope for adjustment both of priorities and modalities in the course of formulating and implementing individual programmes and projects. He also stated that there would be many cross-linkages between projects, and that particular priority should be placed on using the regional programme to mobilize additional resources.

262. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the third regional programme for Europe.

2. Country programme extensions

Albania

263. The Director, DEC, informed the Standing Committee of the Administrator's approval of the extension of the fourth country programme for Albania for one year, beginning 1 January 1992 (DP/CP/ALB/4/EXTENSION I).

264. The purpose of the extension was to give the Government and UNDP more time to assimilate the implications of the major political and economic reforms under way in Albania and to identify appropriate UNDP support. That would be reflected in the fifth country programme, to be submitted to the Governing Council at its special session in February 1993.

265. For the period of the extension, the programme would continue to concentrate on the following areas: (a) privatization, (b) management development, and (c) the development of small and medium industries.

266. Two delegations stated that they fully endorsed the proposed priorities.

267. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council take note of the extension of the fourth country programme for Albania.

Bulgaria

268. The Director, DEC, informed the Standing Committee of the Administrator's approval of the extension of the fourth country programme for Bulgaria for one year, beginning 1 January 1992 (DP/CP/BUL/4/EXTENSION I).

269. The purpose of the extension was to enable the Government and UNDP to assimilate the implications of the major political and economic reforms under way, and to identify appropriate support for the process from UNDP, which was in the process of appointing a Resident Representative in the country. That would be set out in the fifth country programme, to be submitted to the Governing Council at its special session in February 1993.

270. One delegation endorsed the proposed areas of concentration during the extension but indicated that it hoped more information would be exchanged within the country on activities supported by UNDP.

271. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council take note of the extension of the fourth country programme for Bulgaria.

Malta

272. The Director, DEC, informed the Standing Committee of the Administrator's approval of the extension of the fourth country programme for Malta, for one year, beginning 1 January 1992 (DP/CP/MAT/4/EXTENSION I).

273. The purpose of the extension was to provide the Government and UNDP with more time to prepare the new country programme and to estimate the Government contributions needed to maintain the UNDP presence in Malta. That would be reflected in the fifth country programme, to be submitted to the Governing Council at its special session in February 1993.

274. The emphasis of the current country programme on management skills and improvement of the efficiency of the public sector would remain valid for the period of the extension.

275. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council take note of the extension of the fourth country programme for Malta.

Romania

276. The Director, DEC, informed the Standing Committee of the Administrator's approval of the extension of the fourth country programme for Romania, for one year, beginning 1 January 1992 (DP/CP/ROM/4/EXTENSION I).

277. The purpose of the extension was to provide more time to enable the Government and UNDP to identify appropriate UNDP support to Romania, in the context of the major political and economic reforms under way. That would be reflected in the fifth country programme, to be submitted to the Governing Council at its special session in February 1993.

278. In the meantime, the programme would continue to concentrate on the areas of: (a) the introduction of human factors into the process of economic reconstruction; (b) improvement in the domestic capacity of management skills;

(c) strengthening of the privatization programme; and (d) support and promotion of environmental protection and improvement.

279. One delegation supported the areas of priority and stated that UNDP was doing excellent work in the country.

280. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council take note of the extension of the fourth country programme for Romania.

Turkey

281. The Resident Representative introduced the Administrator's proposal for the extension of the fourth country programme for Turkey, for two years, beginning 1 January 1993 (DP/CP/TUR/4/EXTENSION I).

282. The purpose of the extension was to enable the start of the fifth country programme to coincide with the start of the next five-year national development plan (1995-1999). It would also enable the country programme to reflect fully the priorities of the new coalition Government, which took office in November 1991.

283. The present extension would assist the Government to attain objectives relating to: (a) development of management capacity; (b) research and technological development; (c) the environment and the sustainable development of natural resources and energy; (d) technical cooperation among developing countries; and (e) key human development fields, with particular emphasis on women and children.

284. In supporting the extension, the head of the delegation of Turkey described the recent positive evolution of UNDP cooperation in the country, with particular reference to the recent approval of support to a comprehensive national environment programme and to the importance Turkey attached to UNDP cooperation in the transfer and adaption of high technology. She also emphasized Turkey's significant, and indeed pioneering, role in developing an important programme for the Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN), and in the expanding field of providing technical cooperation to other developing countries.

285. In that respect, the head of the delegation described the energetic steps taken by the Government to provide development and technological assistance to the Central Asian Republics with a view to assisting them in acquiring appropriate technical skills and know-how. The Turkish Agency for Technical and Economic Cooperation had recently been established for this purpose. She also mentioned Turkey's increasing cost-sharing contribution to UNDP-assisted projects. However, she also stressed the need for UNDP to clarify its procedures relating to the successor arrangements to agency support costs, so as to avoid confusion and uncertainty regarding the implementation of programmes.

286. Three delegations spoke in support of the extension and endorsed the steps being made by the Government and UNDP as described above.

287. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the extension of the fourth country programme for Turkey for a period of two years, beginning 1 January 1993.

Yugoslavia

288. The Director, DEC, informed the Standing Committee of the Administrator's approval of the extension of the fourth country programme for Yugoslavia for one year, starting 1 January 1992 (DP/CP/YUG/4/EXTENSION I).

289. The extension had been necessitated by the extremely difficult political and institutional process of transition currently being experienced and the consequent need to postpone the preparation of the country programme.

290. The purpose of the extension was to enable the implementation of the ongoing projects in the main areas of concentration of: (a) research and development; (b) better utilization of natural resources; (c) improvement of the environment; and (d) information systems. It would also assist in the transition of the various Republics to market economies, and contribute to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country in the context of the overall peace effort and the ongoing humanitarian endeavours of the international community.

291. Speaking on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, one delegation made the following statement and requested its insertion into the official record of the current session:

> "The European Community and its Member States have taken note of the Declaration of the representatives of the Peoples of the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Montenegro of 27 April 1992, which states that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia continues 'the State, international legal and political personality of the Federative Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia'. This Declaration raises questions related to the continuity of Yugoslavia's membership of international organizations, including the United Nations, which are under consideration. As a matter of fact, the European Community and its Member States have not accepted the automatic continuity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in international organizations, including the United Nations.
>
> "At this stage, they reserve their position on this question.
>
> "We therefore consider that the participation in this session of the UNDP Governing Council of the delegation in question is without prejudice to future decisions which might be taken by the European Community and its Member States on this and related issues."

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292. The Director, DEC, suggested that, as UNDP had for years worked directly with the various Republics, in agreement with the Federal Government, a partial extension of programme activities would permit the completion of viable projects and the maintenance of benefits accrued to the population, wherever feasible, while, at the same time, facilitating the necessary linkages between humanitarian assistance and development.

293. Several delegations maintained that the legal status of the former Yugoslavia did not allow for an extension of the programme, but recognized that a decision to that effect should not deprive innocent people and newly independent Republics of humanitarian aid and technical cooperation. They requested further information regarding ongoing activities and the financial status of the programme.

294. After informal consultations, a draft decision was proposed by 13 delegations (DP/1992/SCPM/L.11/Add.23), which noted the proposal of the Administrator to draw, as necessary, on the small balance of fourth cycle programme resources carried forward, solely for the preparation, under preparatory assistance umbrella projects, of urgent humanitarian projects on a project-by-project basis.

295. The delegation from Yugoslavia considered nevertheless that the text given in DP/CP/YUG/4/EXTENION I was preferable to the draft decision.

296. The Standing Committee recommended that the Administrator be authorized to proceed, exceptionally, on the basis of the above proposal, and in that respect recommended that the Governing Council adopt the draft decision contained in document DP/1992/SCPM/L.11/Add.23.

E. Latin America and the Caribbean

1. Country programme approvals

Argentina

297. The Assistant Administrator and Director Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (RBLAC), introduced the fifth country programme for Argentina (DP/CP/ARG/5), which had a net IPF of $11 million and cost-sharing of $85 million, to be oriented towards three main areas: (a) support of economic growth, (b) strengthening of the management capacity of the State, and (c) formulation and implementation of policies and programmes to improve social conditions.

298. Two delegations expressed their support for the country programme. Note was taken of the considerable improvements that had been made over the last few years in the overall political and economic situation of the country, and of the promising prospects, particularly in the context of the southern cone common market free trade arrangements. The use of UNDP resources as seed money to generate large amounts of cost-sharing and TCDC were commended. The

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country programme was considered to be well focused, with an emphasis on capacity-building and the promotion of market-based systems. It was recommended that criteria for success should be established to facilitate subsequent evaluation, and that donor coordination should be improved.

299. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Argentina.

Belize

300. The Associate Administrator presented the fourth country programme for Belize (DP/CP/BZE/4), which had a net IPF of $1 million and estimated cost-sharing of $1.9 million. Resources would be concentrated in the areas of: (a) management development in the social sector and (b) environmental management.

301. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fourth country programme for Belize.

Bolivia

302. The Resident Representative introduced the fifth country programme for Bolivia (DP/CP/BOL/5) which had an IPF of $22 million, and estimated cost-sharing of $35 million. The programme would be concentrated in the areas of: (a) economic stability and structural reform, (b) economic recovery, and (c) human development.

303. The particular characteristics of the programme approach were described. Four major programme themes have been chosen, for which specific donors have been designated as the lead agencies, namely, for public investment, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); for structural reform, the World Bank; for the adjustment programme and balance-of-payments support, IMF; and for technical cooperation, UNDP.

304. The Government would concentrate the technical cooperation programme in five areas, each of which constituted a national programme, for which UNDP would carry out certain strategic support functions. The total estimated cost of technical cooperation was $700 million.

305. In addition to the government representative, five delegations spoke in support of the country programme, emphasizing its unique catalytic role, and the high level of confidence in the UNDP capacity to assist in the coordination of all technical cooperation. One delegation stressed that particular attention should be placed on strengthening institutional capacity so that the functions listed could be progressively taken over by the Government.

306. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Bolivia.

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Brazil

307. The Resident Representative introduced the fifth country programme for Brazil (DP/CP/BRA/5) which had a net IPF of $14.2 million and estimated cost-sharing of $237.6 million. These resources would be oriented towards the areas of: (a) education, science and technology; (b) modernization of the productive sector; (c) environment and development; and (e) health and social development.

308. In a comprehensive statement, he outlined the main features of the country programme, which included both substantive orientations and innovative modalities. He indicated that, considering the comparative advantages of UNDP, the Government had provided substantial cost-sharing resources. The three attributes of flexibility, efficiency and credibility had all contributed to opening new areas of cooperation, particularly with the private sector and non-governmental organizations. TCDC continued to be of major importance.

309. Six delegations, in addition to the Brazilian delegation, spoke in favour of the country programme. One delegation noted with satisfaction that the Human Development Report had been well received in Brazil, and that it had been used in planning work. It noted, however, that success in integrating gender concerns into that process had been limited. It also mentioned that government management still needed significant strengthening and wondered what effect UNDP assistance could have in that respect. UNDP support to the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and in coordinating assistance from the United Nations system was particularly commended.

310. One delegation, noting that distribution of resources and income was still very inequitable in Brazil, particularly with regard to health and education services for the poorer population groups, said that UNDP should review how best it could address those issues. The question of women in development also needed to be given greater attention in the country programme.

311. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Brazil.

Chile

312. The Assistant Administrator introduced the fifth country programme for Chile (DP/CP/CHI/5) which involved a net IPF of $9.4 million and cost-sharing also of $9.4 million. He cited the three main areas of concentration of the programme, namely: (a) democratization of the State: decentralization, public participation, and modernization of the central government; (b) social development: overcoming poverty; and (c) modernization of production.

313. Particular mention was made of the positive developments achieved in relation to the democratization process, and of the significant strides being made in terms of economic growth and foreign trade. UNDP assistance in the

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creation and strengthening of the International Cooperation Agency (ASGCI) was also stressed, and particularly commended by one delegation.

314. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Chile.

Costa Rica

315. The Assistant Administrator introduced the fifth country programme for Costa Rica (DP/CP/COS/5), which had an IPF of $4.8 million and estimated cost-sharing of $10.2 million. Resources would be oriented towards the areas of: (a) modernization and transformation of the productive apparatus; (b) poverty alleviation; and (c) environment and sustainable development.

316. Four delegations spoke in support of the country programme. They noted the considerable emphasis placed on the introduction of computer technology in education and business management, although one delegation expressed concern that IPF funds were being used for the purchase of computer equipment, which it considered more as budgetary support than technical cooperation. Another delegation, while commending the focus on the environment, warned that the lessons of the Tropical Forest Action Programme (TFAP) and of World Bank experience should be applied. Two delegations noted that their bilateral cooperation had not been reflected in paragraph 11 of the country programme on external cooperation, and that the UNDP coordination role needed to be strengthened. In reply, the Administration took note of the comments made, and said they would be followed up on as appropriate.

317. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Costa Rica.

Dominican Republic

318. The Assistant Administrator introduced the fifth country programme for the Dominican Republic (DP/CP/DOM/5) which had a net IPF of $13.3 million and estimated cost-sharing of $36.1 million. The programme was oriented towards the areas of: (a) implementation of economic reforms; (b) restructuring of growth-oriented sectors; (c) human development and social sector management; and (d) management of environmental strategy.

319. One delegation took the floor in support of the country programme, noting that it was well conceived, particularly the section relating to the environment, and that it conformed satisfactorily to the UNDP thematic priorities. Its focus on capacity-building of government institutions was fully justified. The considerable effectiveness of a limited IPF in resource mobilization was indicative of close relationship with the Government and major donors. While appreciating the good collaboration between UNDP and his Government's aid mission, he said that coordination should be strengthened with other bilateral organizations and with IDB.

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320. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for the Dominican Republic.

Guatemala

321. The Resident Representative introduced the sixth country programme for Guatemala (DP/CP/GUA/6) which has a net IPF of $9.6 million and estimated cost-sharing of $12.7 million. These resources will be concentrated in the areas of: (a) assistance in consolidating national peace and reconciliation, (b) assistance for stabilization and economic growth, and (c) support for action to reduce poverty.

322. Eight delegations made comments in support of approval for the programme. Many of them noted with satisfaction the UNDP role in consolidating peace and national reconciliation, particularly with respect to vulnerable groups and indigenous populations, including the area of human rights. Two delegations said the programme was well focused and appropriate, while another thought it was too dispersed. One delegation considered that more attention could be given to the private sector and strengthening donor coordination.

323. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the sixth country programme for Guatemala.

Honduras

324. The Assistant Administrator introduced the fifth country programme for Honduras (DP/CP/HON/5) which had a net IPF of $12.5 million, and estimated cost-sharing of $25.6 million, to be concentrated in the areas of: (a) support for the economic modernization and social development programme, (b) strengthening of production sectors and improvement of employment and remuneration, and (c) reform, modernization and decentralization of the State.

325. One delegation spoke in support of the country programme. It pointed out that coordination needed to be improved between UNDP and the agencies, as well as their mutual understanding on their respective roles in project execution. Nevertheless, it felt that the UNDP office was functioning well and providing useful service to the Government. The same delegation wondered why the environment had not been fully taken into account.

326. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Honduras.

Mexico

327. The Assistant Administrator introduced the fifth country programme for Mexico (DP/CP/MEX/5), which had a net IPF of $9.6 million and estimated cost-sharing of $9.3 million. These resources would be concentrated in the areas of (a) water, ecology and environment; (b) poverty and population; (c) high technology; and (d) strengthening of technical cooperation.

328. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Mexico.

Nicaragua

329. The Assistant Administrator introduced the fifth country programme for Nicaragua (DP/CP/NIC/5), which had a net IPF of $19.7 million and estimated cost-sharing of $48.1 million subject to eventual revision, in the following areas of concentration: (a) consolidation of the rule of law and order and national reconciliation and socio-economic rehabilitation; (b) economic stabilization and structural adjustment programme; (c) revival of production sectors; and (d) social development and eradication of poverty.

330. The Nicaraguan delegation highlighted the context of the country programme in terms of a country emerging from the scars of a bitter civil war, with a major task of adjustment and reconciliation to accomplish. The added problem of a massive foreign debt, a critical socio-economic situation and per capita income of $350 per head, put the country in the "as if" LDC category. Nevertheless, the Government was addressing the issues boldly, a significant sign being the reduction of military personnel from 90,000 to 20,000, and the return of the majority to civilian life.

331. Six delegations spoke in favour of the country programme. One of them considered that the focus of four areas could overextend government capacity, particularly since it was proposed to expand the use of the national execution modality. It was therefore suggested that the process should be carried out gradually, the major emphasis being placed on institutional capacity-building. The same delegation also noted that references to a number of features, such as women in development and the private sector were weak, and should be addressed, while two delegations made the same comment with respect to the environment. One delegation suggested that a report from a conference on the judicial system should be used as a basis for dialogue on the issues involved.

332. With respect to coordination, one delegation reported that it was very effective, while two others felt that UNDP should play a more active catalytic role and organize regular donor coordination meetings.

333. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Nicaragua.

Paraguay

334. The Assistant Administrator introduced the fifth country programme for Paraguay (DP/CP/PAR/5), which had a net IPF of $5.2 million and estimated cost-sharing of $35.5 million, oriented towards the following areas of concentration: (a) modernization of the State, (b) human/social development, and (c) sustained development of natural resources.

335. Four delegations spoke in support of the country programme. They noted the substantial changes taking place in Paraguay with respect to economic liberalization and the democratic process. One delegation commented with interest on the elements in the programme devoted to human rights, which could be relevant to other country programmes. The Administration confirmed that three other country programmes in Latin America had similar concerns. One delegation remarked on the opening of valuable trade opportunities through the southern cone common market (MERCOSUR).

336. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Paraguay.

Uruguay

337. The Assistant Administrator introduced the fifth country programme for Uruguay (DP/CP/URU/5), which had a net IPF of $4.7 million and estimated cost-sharing of $16 million, oriented towards three areas of concentration: (a) investment promotion and conversion of production, (b) reform of the State and modernization of its management; and (c) social policies.

338. The Assistant Administrator highlighted the small but strategic role of UNDP resources, particularly as seed money for large-scale technical cooperation in support of loans from IDB and the World Bank. The flexible procedures of UNDP had proved to be very helpful in accelerating implementation of such loans. Its cooperation in support of the expansion of trade opportunities and economic integration in the context of MERCOSUR was also noted, as well as its important capacity-building role, for instance in the Government's National Debureaucratization Programme.

339. Three delegations, in addition to the Uruguayan delegation, endorsed the programme. One of them emphasized his Government's willingness to enter into joint operations in some areas of potential common concern, for instance urban management, cadastral services, sanitation planning and the environment. Another delegation said that there were too many activities for a relatively small programme. It commended the excellent relations maintained with the World Bank and EEC, although it felt that inter-ministerial coordination needed to be improved so as to benefit fully from the assistance provided. The same delegation suggested the UNDP cooperation could be relevant to the strengthening of the judicial system. The need for donor coordination was stressed by the third delegation.

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340. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Uruguay.

Venezuela

341. The Assistant Administrator introduced the fifth country programme for Venezuela (DP/CP/VEN/5), which would dispose of a net IPF of $3.7 million and cost-sharing of $21.6 million, oriented towards the following areas: (a) decentralization and modernization of the public sector and broadening citizen participation; (b) social management; (c) the environment and natural resources; and (d) the production sector.

342. Four delegations, in addition to the Venezuela delegation, supported the country programme. Two delegations spoke of the possibilities of cooperation with their respective bilateral programmes, for instance in the areas of research and technology concerning the environment and natural resources, and in vocational training. The suggestions were welcomed by the Administration.

343. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Venezuela.

Regional Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean

344. The Assistant Administrator introduced the fourth Regional Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (DP/RLA/4) which had a net IPF of $30.7 million and estimated cost-sharing of $40 million, to be focused on seven areas of concentration: (a) poverty alleviation and social development, (b) governance: the State and civil society; (c) modernization of the productive sector, innovation and competitiveness; (d) integration and international economic relations; (e) environment and development; (f) drugs and development; and (g) communications and information technology for development and integration.

345. Five delegations spoke in favour of the regional programme. One of them particularly commended the comprehensive process of consultations and brainstorming engaged in during its preparation, which had helped to identify appropriate catalytic roles for UNDP in strategic areas, particularly relating to human development concerns. In that context, the strategy for three basic functions of the regional programme was significant, namely the development of a regional vision on major policy issues; the dissemination of that vision through policy discussions among Governments, universities and NGOs; and the provision of seed money for resource mobilization to support those functions.

346. One delegation recommended that the unprogrammed reserve should be used for TCDC. Another delegation was particularly interested in the opportunities offered in the fourth area of concentration regarding integration and international economic relations as follow-up work to the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, as well as in the promotion of a "Latin

trade" programme. A third delegation considered that the regional programme's objectives might be too ambitious for the resources available, thus limiting its eventual results.

347. The Administration took note of these and other comments. It laid particular stress on the need to use local resources from within the region, and to ensure that the activities of the programme facilitated the process of democratization and the exchange of views and experience in support of the regional programme's objectives.

348. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the Regional Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Country and Multi-island Programmes for the Eastern Caribbean

349. The Assistant Administrator introduced the following country programmes and the multi-island programme for the countries of the Eastern Caribbean.

(a) Anguilla (net IPF of $1.3 million and estimated cost-sharing of $0.2 million) (DP/CP/ANL/2);

(b) Antigua and Barbuda (net IPF $1.2 million) (DP/CP/ANT/3);

(c) Dominica (net IPF of $1.2 million and estimated cost-sharing of $0.5 million) (DP/CP/DMI/3);

(d) Grenada (net IPF of $1.3 million and estimated cost-sharing of $0.2 million) (DP/CP/GRN/3);

(e) Montserrat (net IPF of $0.5 million and estimated cost-sharing of $0.3 million) (DP/CP/MOT/3);

(f) Saint Kitts and Nevis (net IPF of $1.6 million) (DP/CP/STK/3);

(g) Saint Lucia (net IPF of $1.3 million and estimated cost-sharing of $0.7 million) (DP/CP/STL/3);

(h) Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (net IPF of $1.9 million and estimated cost-sharing of $0.3 million) (DP/CP/STV/3);

(i) Multi-island programme for the countries of the Eastern Caribbean (net IPF of $4.0 million and estimated cost-sharing of $0.2 million) (DP/CP/CAR/5).

350. An introduction on the overall context of the programmes was given, highlighting the fact that since the main features of the islands were their dependency on tourism and service-related industries, the main priorities were to: (a) strengthen socio-economic management development; (b) reinforce environmental protection and natural resource management; and (c) increase poverty alleviation and grass-roots development.

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351. Four delegations spoke in support of the above programmes. Two of them noted the common concerns reflected in their respective bilateral programmes. One delegation stressed the importance of strengthening fiscal and debt management in Antigua and Barbuda, and the training of staff. Another delegation highlighted the serious situation in the education sector of the islands, owing to the departure of teachers as a result of uncompetitive remuneration. Long-term sustainability of the efforts of UNDP and other donors would therefore be all the more difficult. One delegation commended the good collaboration with the UNDP office in Barbados. It also noted that, in Anguilla, UNDP would be building on an education initiative launched under his country's bilateral programme.

352. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the country and multi-island programmes for the Eastern Caribbean.

2. Country programme extensions

353. The Standing Committee took note of the Administrator's approval of the extension of the following country programmes, for one year, beginning 1 January 1992.

Aruba (DP/CP/ARU/1/EXTENSION I)

Bahamas (DP/CP/BHA/2/EXTENSION I)

Barbados (DP/CP/BAR/4/EXTENSION I)

British Virgin Islands (DP/CP/BVI/2/EXTENSION I)

Cayman Islands (DP/CP/CAY/2/EXTENSION I)

El Salvador (DP/CP/ELS/4/EXTENSION I)

Guyana (DP/CP/GUY/4/EXTENSION I): The delegation from Guyana requested that the second and third sentences of paragraph 1 of document DP/CP/GUY/4/EXTENSION I be amended to read as follows: "The process leading to the formulation of the fifth programme has been delayed since preparations for general elections have been the focus of national attention, and internal consultations have not yet been completed. The Government has therefore requested that the fourth programme be extended by one year."

Jamaica (DP/CP/JAM/4/EXTENSION I)

Netherlands Antilles (DP/CP/NAN/2/EXTENSION I)

Panama (DP/CP/PAN/4/EXTENSION I)

Suriname (DP/CP/SUR/3/EXTENSION I)

Trinidad and Tobago (DP/CP/TRI/4/EXTENSION I)

Turks and Caicos Islands (DP/CP/TCI/2/EXTENSION I)

354. One delegation added that as the British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands were administered by its Government, it fully supported the extension of those programmes, for the reasons given.

3. Approval of projects on a project-by-project basis

Haiti

355. The Standing Committee took note of the Administrator's proposal (DP/1992/62) that, in view of the current situation in Haiti and the corresponding difficulties of proceeding with the preparation of the fifth country programme, projects should be approved on a case-by-case basis, within the limits of the IPF resources available.

356. One delegation said that it had no objection to the proposal, so long as the criteria used for the approval of projects was consistent with those of the relevant resolution of the Organization of American States on assistance to Haiti. As a result, such projects should be limited to humanitarian assistance.

357. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the proposal to approve projects on a case-by-case basis for Haiti.

F. Experience in country programming

358. In order to synthesize and draw conclusions from the review of country programmes by the Standing Committee for Programme Matters, the Assistant Administrator, BPPE, led an informal discussion on the subject.

359. In introducing the topic, he noted an overall sense of appreciation of UNDP efforts to integrate the varied concerns of the Governing Council into the present generation of country programmes. These included the six areas of focus specified in Council decision 90/34 and the need for: (a) greater focus and concentration in the choice of priorities; (b) a more programme-oriented approach in UNDP technical cooperation; (c) the identification of coordination arrangements; and (d) the roles of other donors providing complementary assistance.

360. He also noted other crucial issues and the implications that the above shifts in orientation were having on: (a) the capacity of field offices to comply with more demanding intellectual and documentation requirements; (b) the allocation of limited resources at a time of budgetary constraint; (c) the need to reconcile concerns of the Governing Council with those of Governments; (d) programming in countries undergoing great political

uncertainty and change; (e) the need for greater harmonization of efforts with JCGP partners and with United Nations specialized agencies, particularly when the latter were experiencing the need for their own internal adjustments as a result of new support cost arrangements and the consequences of increasing national execution.

361. As for the future, he recognized the importance of proceeding rapidly with the issuing of guidelines on the programme approach while making sure that the type of performance indicators and success criteria were included which could be used for subsequent mid-term reviews, on which guidelines also needed to be updated.

362. Many delegations expressed satisfaction at the opportunity to take an overall view of the country programmes recommended for approval by the Standing Committee and to have a genuine dialogue with UNDP on the matter.

363. One delegation noted that it was greatly encouraged by the significant improvements made and that the new format for country programmes had provided an important degree of consistency in presentation and quality of substance. At the same time, it had ensured that concerns of the Governing Council were fully incorporated into the programming process. The delegation noted with appreciation that the six areas of focus were included in most country programmes and suggested that where they were not addressed, for any reasons, they should at least be mentioned in the document. The same delegation also welcomed the initial trends in Latin America towards providing assistance in the area of human rights and was pleased to note that evaluation results and assessments of past experience were better reflected than in past country programmes.

364. The same delegation recognized that there were still areas for improvement: for instance, in trying to quantify in percentage terms the future trends in, and targets for, national execution; the need to ensure greater focus in the country programmes in the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, which seemed to have made less progress in that area than the Regional Bureau for Africa and the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. With another delegation, it also observed that the programme matrix might not be very useful and could lead to exaggerated claims of compliance with the six areas of focus, thus emphasizing the need for textual references under each area of concentration.

365. Finally, the delegation considered that the Administrator's note on country programmes was no longer necessary since the information contained in it was largely included in the country programme document itself.

366. Another delegation expressed appreciation for the field visits organized by UNDP, and considered that they were most useful to Governing Council members in gaining a fuller appreciation of the realities behind country programmes. It urged the need to proceed immediately with preparatory work for subsequent mid-term reviews - for instance, baseline studies and the identification of performance indicators. It also asked whether all mid-term reviews would be submitted to the Council or just a sample.

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367. A further delegation shared some of the above observations and commended the clearer focus of country programmes in terms of programmes identified and the clearer links between national objectives and UNDP priorities. It considered that more attention should be given to popular participation and women in development and to identifying more clearly in country programmes the particular comparative advantages of UNDP in given areas vis-à-vis those of other donors.

368. Considering the bunching of the preparation and appraisal of a large number of country programmes in the early years of the cycle, one delegation suggested that submissions should be more staggered.

369. Another delegation noted that it was very rare that it had strong criticisms of country programmes, remarking also that the present fifth cycle country programmes were evidence that UNDP was up to date in facilitating new partnerships between developing countries and the donor community in a rapidly changing world. The delegation congratulated UNDP for recognizing the essential role of human rights, popular participation and democratization in the development process. It also urged continued or increased attention to regional cooperation and TCDC and economic cooperation among developing countries (ECDC).

370. Another delegation reiterated its concern for strengthening the mid-term review process and for evaluating the results of experience with the programme approach and national execution. It recognized the need for long-term, country-specific strategies in the United Nations system and for harmonizing programme cycles and methodologies.

371. Finally, another delegation commended the improvements in country programmes, but suggested that they should be continued along the following lines: (a) country programme documents should be progressively transformed into country strategy documents as suggested in the informal concept paper; (b) country programme (or country strategy) documents should eventually become joint documents for the United Nations development system as a whole, in each country; (c) country programme (or country strategy) documents should be developed to serve as the basis for improving the country programming process as a whole and thus constitute the key document for periodic monitoring.

372. The Assistant Administrator thanked delegations for their many useful comments. In reply to some of them, he mentioned that there would be no need for the formal staggering of submissions of country programmes as they were effectively staggering themselves. For instance, of the 124 programmes originally scheduled for the current session, only half had materialized because of the normal delays in finalizing programmes, with most of those remaining being approved for one-year extensions.

373. With reference to the comments made on the country programmes in the Latin American region, he recalled that most of them were to a very large degree financed out of cost-sharing. That source of funding thus lead to greater diversity since each individual ministry or agency helped to mobilize

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the recourse. The trends were likely to expand as additional sources of funding were drawn upon - such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) - and multibilateral sources which would no doubt have an effect on the efforts of UNDP to concentrate its assistance.

374. On the question of thematic matrices, he suggested that a classification system should be developed that could indicate, by a figure, for example, the intensity of association between the programme and each theme. Such a system could be developed in time for the programmes to be submitted to the Governing Council at its fortieth session. The views of delegates on the subject were invited.

375. With respect to the organization of mid-term reviews, it was envisaged that about half a dozen could be organized for 1993, for those programmes approved in 1991. For 1994, with 65 country programmes reaching their mid-term, an overview of those programmes, probably by region, seemed appropriate. In the meantime, the guidelines on the mid-term reviews were being revised so as to provide relevant information, based on performance criteria, and Governing Council concerns regarding areas of focus and modalities.

376. Regarding the harmonization of programme cycles, the matter was being addresed by a JCGP working group. The exercise was not complete, but progress was being made on a country-by-country basis. It was evident that if a restructured United Nations system at the field level was ultimately established by the Secretary-General, then harmonization of cycles could presumably be established immediately.

377. In conclusion, the Assistant Administrator thanked the Standing Committee for its comments and suggestions, on which follow-up appropriate action would be taken.

378. As a follow-up to the discussion, six delegations proposed a draft decision on country programming and mid-term reviews.

379. After due discussion, the Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the draft decision contained in document DP/1992/SCPM/L.11/Add.24.

G. Global and interregional programmes

Division for Global and Interregional Programmes (DGIP)

380. The Director, Division for Global and Interregional Programmes (DGIP), introduced the global and interregional programmes for the fifth programming cycle (1992-1996), eight individual global projects, and an analysis of the global and interregional programmes for the fifth cycle, on which a number of delegations made comments.

1. Approval of global and interregional programme

381. The document on global and interregional programmes for the fifth programming cycle (1992-1996) (DP/INT/GLO/2) covered total programme resources of $217 million, comprising the interregional IPF ($67 million), the global IPF ($112 million), the fourth cycle carry-over ($3 million) and cost-sharing ($35 million).

382. The resources would be concentrated in the following areas: (a) social development and poverty eradication, (b) environment and natural resources, and (c) public sector management.

383. One delegation said that the document was a useful one, providing an excellent overview and justification of the programme as a whole.

384. The Standing Committee recommended that the Administrator approve the global and interregional programmes for the fifth programming cycle (1992-1996).

2. Approval of global project

Children's Health Research Programme (GLO/92/002)

385. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the project: Children's Health Research Programme (GLO/92/002), which would involve a UNDP contribution of $16.1 million.

Human Reproductive Health (GLO/92/003)

386. The Standing Committee recommended that the Administrator approve the project: Human Reproductive Health (GLO/92/003), which would involve a UNDP contribution of $1 million. It would complement inputs from a number of co-sponsors, in particular the World Health Organization (WHO), UNFPA and the World Bank.

UNDP/WHO/World Bank Special Programme for Research and Training on Tropical Diseases (GLO/92/004)

387. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the project: Special Programme for Research and Training on Tropical Diseases (GLO/92/004), which would involve a UNDP contribution of $15 million.

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Ecologically Sustainable Cassava Plant Protection in South America and Africa: An Environmentally Sound Approach (GLO/91/013)

388. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the project: Ecologically Sustainable Cassava Plant Protection in South America and Africa: An Environmentally Sound Approach (GLO/91/013), which would involve a UNDP contribution of $10.1 million.

Reducing Maize Losses to Insect Pests by Enhancing Host Plant Resistance with Bacillus Thuringiensis Toxin Genes (GLO/91/014)

389. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the project: Reducing Maize Losses to Insect Pests by Enhancing Host Plant Resistance with Bacillus Thuringiensis Toxin Genes (GLO/91/014), which would involve a UNDP contribution of $6.2 million.

Genetic Improvement of Farmed Tilapia (GLO/90/016)

390. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the project: Genetic Improvement of Farmed Tilapia (GLO/90/016), which would involve a UNDP contribution of $4.8 million.

Biotechnology Assisted Breeding to Reduce Pesticide Use in Potato Production (GLO/91/016)

391. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the project: Biotechnology Assisted Breeding to Reduce Pesticide Use in Potato Production (GLO/91/016), which would involve a UNDP contribution of $4.7 million.

A Global Musa Testing Programme (GLO/91/020)

392. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the project: A Global Musa Testing Programme (GLO/91/020), which would involve a UNDP contribution of $4.8 million.

Analysis of the report of the Administrator on global and interregional programmes for the fifth programming cycle (1992-1996)

393. The Director, DGIP, introduced the report of the Administrator (DP/INT/GLO/2 and Corr.1 and Add.1), which had been prepared in response to paragraph 4 of Governing Council decision 92/10 of 14 February 1992.

394. With respect to the global and interregional programmes, one delegation requested the Standing Committee to recommend to the Governing Council that the proposals outlined in the analytical note on the global and interregional programmes for the fifth programming cycle (DP/INT/GLO/2/Add.1) of 15 April 1992 be recognized as integral elements of the programming framework of the global and interregional programmes for the fifth programming cycle, 1992-1996.

VI. UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

395. The UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme) provided an overview of the 31 UNFPA country programmes being submitted to the Council at its current session for consideration and approval. Following a brief examination of the evolution of the UNFPA programme review and strategy development (PRSD) exercise during the past three years, the Deputy Executive Director identified certain underlying elements shared by the 31 country programmes. These included, among others, strengthening national capacities, integrating women, population and development concerns into each programme, addressing population and environmental concerns, building monitoring and evaluation mechanisms into each programme, and enhancing collaboration with non-governmental, multilateral and bilateral organizations active in the population field.

Asia and the Pacific

396. The Chief of the Asia and Pacific Division made a general introductory statement concerning recent trends in population programming in the region before introducing each of the eight country programmes separately.

Bhutan

397. UNFPA proposed a comprehensive, five-year population programme in the amount of $2.8 million, of which $2.2 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $600,000 from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

398. The broad objectives of the programme would be, inter alia, to: (a) assist the Government in building the national capacity for population policy formulation, data collection and analysis, and programme coordination; (b) expand and improve maternal and child health and family planning (MCH/FP) services; (c) increase the demand for family planning services and provide needed contraceptive supplies and equipment; (d) substantially increase community-based maternity care; and (e) promote the integration of women into mainstream development activities.

399. Several delegations expressed support for the proposed programme.

400. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the second UNFPA country programme for Bhutan (DP/FPA/CP/114).

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Mongolia

401. UNFPA proposed a comprehensive population programme in the amount of $4 million over a five-year period.

402. The main objectives of the proposed programme would be to assist the Government: (a) in bringing about a change in people's attitudes towards and perceptions of population issues, in particular concerning the health and social benefits of family planning; (b) in defining and refining a population policy that balances population growth with the country's economic prospects; and (c) in reducing infant and maternal mortality rates through the promotion of Safe Motherhood with a particular emphasis on the provision of family planning information and services.

403. Several delegations expressed support for the proposed programme.

404. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the first UNFPA country programme for Mongolia (DP/FPA/CP/102).

Nepal

405. UNFPA proposed a comprehensive, five-year population programme in the amount of $19 million, of which $15 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $4 million from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

406. The objectives of the programme would be to build up national capacity to: (a) deliver efficient and effective MCH/FP services; (b) consolidate and expand the reach of the population information, education and communication (IEC) programme; (c) institutionalize formal and non-formal population education; (d) collect, analyse and disseminate population data; (e) integrate women into mainstream development activities; and (f) carry out research on the interrelationship between population and the environment.

407. One delegation welcomed the programme's increased emphasis on temporary methods of contraception while still seeking to meet the demand for permanent methods. The delegation stressed the importance of generating demand for contraceptives by providing a wide mix of temporary methods, as noted in the country programme report. Another member of the Committee, noting that her country would soon be sending an appraisal mission to Nepal, requested UNFPA cooperation and collaboration during the mission.

408. The UNFPA administration assured delegations that UNFPA placed high priority on collaborative activities and therefore welcomed the opportunity to work with all interested parties.

409. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the third UNFPA country programme for Nepal (DP/FPA/CP/109).

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Papua New Guinea

410. UNFPA proposed a comprehensive, five-year population programme in the amount of $5.5 million, of which $4 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $1.5 million from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

411. The immediate objectives of the programme would be: (a) to strengthen institutional coordination and monitoring arrangements for the implementation of the national population policy; (b) to expand MCH/FP service delivery and improve the capacity of the health system and other community-based networks in service delivery; and (c) to intensify population information and communication efforts and to increase the level of awareness and understanding among politicians, religious leaders, and planners of the interrelationships between population and development.

412. One delegation welcomed the programmes's emphasis on improving the quality and outreach of MCH/FP services. Another delegation commended UNFPA for its continued commitment to help the island developing countries of the Pacific. The delegate asked, however, if the significant increase in assistance to Papua New Guinea would pose any difficulties in effecting such a large percentage increase in the level of disbursements, in particular concerning staffing both at UNFPA and at its counterpart agencies within the Government. Noting the importance of effective coordination, he further asked if UNFPA had participated in discussions with a World Bank consultative group, which was very active in the country. He also sought clarification of both the scope and the time-frame of the programme's objectives.

413. The administration noted that it had a close working relationship with the World Bank in Papua New Guinea and that the two organizations consulted regularly with one another. The significant increase in assistance reflected the magnitude of need identified by the PRSD mission that had visited Papua New Guinea in March 1991. The programme would initially concentrate on providing MCH/FP services in urban areas then gradually expand such services to rural areas. This would be accompanied by an intensive and widespread IEC programme aimed at specific target groups.

414. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the first UNFPA country programme for Papua New Guinea (DP/FPA/CP/98).

South Pacific subregion

415. UNFPA proposed a comprehensive, five-year population programme in the amount of $12.5 million, of which $10 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $2.5 million from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

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416. The broad objectives of the programme would be to: (a) expand and improve the quality and accessibility of MCH/FP services; (b) increase the level of awareness of population issues; (c) improve the institutional capacity of countries to collect, process, analyse and disseminate demographic data as well as to conduct demographic research; (d) promote the status of women; and (e) promote multisectoral activities with special emphasis on the environment and the sustainability of development.

417. One member of the Committee welcomed the UNFPA programme as an important contribution to the island countries' efforts to stem or reduce overpopulation, which was fundamental to their sustainable development. He pointed out, however, that while the South Pacific was generally seen as a coherent geographic area that frequently operated collectively in a political sense, the region was also characterized by its economic, social and development diversity. Moreover, there were enormous differences in size and national capabilities. Such differences had to be taken into account when designing programme activities. He also welcomed the programme's use of regional institutions. Another Committee member, noting the great distances between countries in the subregion, asked if this posed serious difficulties for coordination. He also wanted to know if travel costs, which must be substantial, would come out of the programme budget.

418. The administration noted that UNFPA was working closely with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the South Pacific Commission (SPC) on ways to ensure optimum coordination in the subregion. The administration further pointed out that one of the Fund's technical support teams would be based in Suva, Fiji. In reply to the question about travel costs, the administration noted that such costs would indeed be considerable and that they would come out of the programme budget. It stressed, however, that UNFPA and UNDP would draw up a joint annual travel plan for the subregion so as to maximize programme coverage and minimize travel costs.

419. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the first subregional programme for the South Pacific (DP/FPA/CP/99).

Sri Lanka

420. UNFPA proposed a comprehensive, five-year population programme in the amount of $6 million, of which $5 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $1 million from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

421. The specific objectives of the programme would be to: (a) improve the quality and quantity of MCH/FP service delivery; (b) strengthen the national capacity to sustain a national family planning programme; (c) increase knowledge on population and family planning issues especially among youth and young adults; (d) improve national capacity to identify effectively and coordinate needs in training; and (e) help further integrate Sri Lankan women into mainstream national population and development activities.

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422. One delegation welcomed the shift away from sterilization to modern temporary contraceptive methods, but asked how such a shift would be achieved. The delegation urged that the strategy adopted should focus on increasing access to a wide selection of temporary contraceptives. Another delegation stressed the importance of UNFPA assistance to Sri Lanka, given the serious problems population growth posed to an island country already facing extreme pressures on resources and the environment.

423. The administration noted that the shift away from sterilization to modern temporary methods of contraception was a government policy that had evolved over time. The UNFPA programme would in fact focus on providing as wide a selection of modern temporary methods as possible. The programme would also focus on improving the delivery of MCH/FP services to disadvantaged socio-economic groups.

424. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fourth UNFPA country programme for Sri Lanka (DP/FPA/CP/92).

Thailand

425. UNFPA proposed a comprehensive, five-year population programme in the amount of $7 million, of which $6 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. The amount of $500,000 had been provided by the Government of Australia through a multi-bilateral arrangement for the biennium 1992-1993. UNFPA would seek to provide the balance of $500,000 from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

426. The main objectives of the proposed programme would be to: (a) improve national capacity to refine the country's population policy and to develop population plans accordingly; (b) re-orient IEC activities to inform people of available contraceptive methods and to raise public awareness of issues of population, development and the environment; (c) heighten women's role in development; and (d) help develop Thailand's potential to provide technical assistance to other developing countries in the field of population.

427. One member of the Committee noted that Thailand's past success made it an ideal source of TCDC. He further pointed out that the country's current social and economic development plan defined the role of the Government as primarily a facilitator of NGOs and other private organizations. He concluded by commending UNFPA for including HIV/AIDS prevention activities in its programme. Another delegation emphasized the importance of prioritizing programme activities in order to strengthen the Fund's technical assistance to Thailand.

428. The administration agreed that Thailand was an ideal source of technical assistance to other developing countries, as it had been in the past. UNFPA would therefore make every effort to continue to make use of the services of Thailand in this regard. Concerning the point on prioritization, the administration noted that, following the Governing Council's approval of the

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programme, UNFPA would send a programming mission to Thailand to work with the Government in determining programme priorities and identifying executing agencies.

429. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the sixth UNFPA country programme for Thailand (DP/FPA/CP/90).

Viet Nam

430. UNFPA proposed a comprehensive, four-year population programme in the amount of $36 million, of which $25 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $11 million from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

431. The objective of the programme would be to assist the Government in reducing the population growth rate by reducing the fertility rate. To achieve this, the programme would seek to increase access to and the availability of a wider choice of contraceptives and to raise awareness of population issues. The proposed programme would also help the Government to establish an integrated statistical system in the field of population and strengthen the country's institutional capacity to provide demographic training and conduct demographic research.

432. Several delegations strongly supported the proposed programme. Some delegations also indicated an interest in supporting the programme financially. One delegation noted that establishing a computerized database of the highly successful 1989 census was a critical activity. The delegation further stressed the importance of efforts to train trainers in order to take advantage of the multiplier effect. Another member of the Committee emphasized the need to work with young people, particularly in the area of MCH/FP. She commended the use of the community-based distribution of MCH/FP services, but stressed that such services must be backed by an effective health referral system. Another delegation noted the importance of using NGOs in programme implementation.

433. One delegation, citing the findings of a PRSD mission, as summarized in the Fund's periodic evaluation report (document DP/1992/25), sought clarification on the Council of Ministers' Decree on Population and Family Planning, which, among other things, formalized an increase in the age of mothers at first birth as well as a family norm of one to two children. The delegation wanted to know what the legal status of this norm was, and whether and how it was being enforced. The delegation also asked if coordination between the National Committee for Population and Family Planning (NCPFP) and implementing agencies had improved, since this had been identified as a bottleneck in the previous programme.

434. In response to the Committee, the administration agreed that the computerized database was essential for the effective analysis of the 1989 census and the effective dissemination of its results. It said that UNFPA

also recognized the importance of working with youth, which was being done through two channels - the education system and the Youth Union. The administration further noted that at present family planning services were provided only through the health system. It agreed that NGOs were valuable implementing agents, but pointed out that few were currently active in Viet Nam.

435. Concerning the Decree on Population and Family Planning, the administration emphasized that the decree had been adopted in 1988. UNFPA monitoring activities in the four years since then had found no impositions of any kind on the Vietnamese people. Moreover, the National Health Law of 1989, which was also cited in the same UNFPA evaluation report, strongly stressed the fact that individuals must be free to choose whether or not to use family planning as well as the method desired. The administration further emphasized that all project documents signed by the Government included a clause on respect for the principles of the World Population Plan of Action. It concluded by noting that there was now a good relationship between the NCPFP and the implementing agencies and that the capacity of the implementing agencies had improved.

436. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fourth UNFPA country programme for Viet Nam (DP/FPA/CP/103).

Arab States and Europe

437. The Chief of the Arab States and Europe Division made a general statement concerning recent trends in population programming in the region before introducing each of the four country programmes separately.

Egypt

438. UNFPA proposed a comprehensive, five-year population programme in the amount of $20 million, of which $10 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $10 million from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

439. The main goals and strategies of the programme included: (a) increasing and sustaining contraceptive prevalence; (b) bridging the gap between rural and urban fertility levels; (c) developing a coherent IEC plan and reaching underserved and underprivileged target audiences through community groups and NGOs; (d) strengthening technical capabilities at the national and governorate levels; (e) improving information and service statistics; (f) creating awareness of the linkages between population, environment and natural resources; (g) promoting a more comprehensive understanding of the interrelationship between women, population and development; and (h) promoting better programme coordination within national institutions and among donor countries.

440. One delegation noted that the UNFPA programme was the product of excellent donor coordination. The programme appropriately emphasized a diversification of contraceptive methods, including orals and injectables, as well as the introduction of family planning and counselling skills in the training of nurses. Another delegation wondered if such a large number of programme objectives could be effectively coordinated. A third Committee member asked if the proposed programme fitted with government policy. He also sought clarification on the role of the National Population Council (NPC) vis-à-vis other government departments as well as its role in coordinating all donor assistance. Another delegation asked if UNFPA was taking any measures to reassess programme priorities in the event that some bilateral donors in the population sector were to withdraw from the country.

441. In response to the question concerning the large number of programme objectives, the administration noted that the programme in Egypt was a mature one. The country had demonstrated a proven capability in the population field and had achieved substantial results, especially in recent years. The administration was optimistic that the programme would achieve its objectives. Regarding the relationship between the proposed programme and government policy, the administration pointed out that the programme was prepared in close cooperation with the Government and that government policies and objectives are taken into account in all activities of the programme.

442. Regarding the role of the NPC, the administration noted that the NPC was the government coordinating agency for all population activities. It was also responsible for devising strategies and for monitoring the population activities of various government agencies. Regarding contingency measures to reassess programme priorities in the case of the withdrawal of donors, the administration noted that UNFPA, in consultation with the Government was seeking to increase multi-bilateral and bilateral assistance for Egypt. Furthermore, UNFPA assistance gave priority to the local production of contraceptives so as to ensure self-sufficiency in this area.

443. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth UNFPA country programme for Egypt (DP/FPA/CP/101).

Jordan

444. UNFPA proposed a comprehensive, five-year population programme in the amount of $7 million, of which $5 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $2 million from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

445. The objective of the proposed programme would be to: (a) formulate an explicit population policy; (b) devise mechanisms for setting population targets and translating the National Birth Spacing Initiative into comprehensive programmes; (c) improve the quality of MCH/FP services; (d) increase the contraceptive prevalence rate; and (e) reduce rural-urban migration.

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446. One delegation requested information on the following three items: (a) the status of donor coordination; (b) the country's contraceptive needs; and (c) the critical factors facilitating or constraining the success of the programme. The delegation further requested that UNFPA address these three items in its introductions to all subsequent country programmes.

447. The administration agreed that donor coordination was critical to the success of all of its programmes. The Fund therefore regularly held meetings with most donors in most countries, in consultation and cooperation with the Government. As far as available resources were concerned, UNFPA was able to meet only one third of Jordan's contraceptive needs. The limited availability of resources was also perhaps the most serious constraint to the success of the Jordan programme.

448. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fourth UNFPA country programme for Jordan (DP/FPA/CP/112).

Sudan

449. UNFPA proposed an interim two-year population programme in the amount of $5.5 million, of which $5 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $500,000 from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

450. The specific objectives of the programme would be to: (a) improve MCH/FP service delivery; (b) strengthen the national capability to collect, process and effectively use population data; (c) enhance the socio-economic status of women; and (d) increase awareness and understanding of population issues.

451. One delegation, noting that the programme objectives seemed overly ambitious and perhaps unrealistic, asked how UNFPA expected to achieve such results in such a short time.

452. The administration agreed that the targets were ambitious, but pointed out that they were the targets that the Government had set for the year 2000. UNFPA support was not sufficient, in and of itself, to attain those targets. This required considerably increased resources from the Government as well as from other sources. The administration reminded delegations in this regard that the UNFPA programme was a two-year interim programme whose primary purpose was to help the Government initiate activities that could be built upon in future programmes.

453. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the interim UNFPA country programme for Sudan (DP/FPA/CP/97).

Yemen

454. UNFPA proposed a comprehensive, five-year population programme in the amount of $15 million, of which $10 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $5 million from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

455. The main objectives of the programme would be to assist the country in: (a) elaborating the national population policy and translating it into operational programmes at the regional and local levels; (b) devising strategies for and implementing MCH/FP programmes; (c) integrating demographic variables into development planning; (d) reducing maternal and child mortality; (e) improving the status of women and enhancing their access to health care and family planning services; and (f) integrating population education into various educational and training programmes.

456. Several delegations strongly supported the proposed programme. One delegation, emphasizing the importance of meeting the contraceptive needs of the people, underscored the need for collaborative donor efforts to increase funding for contraceptives. Several Standing Committee members said they were concerned that the programme objectives were too ambitious. One also asked if UNFPA planned to conduct a public information campaign to create awareness about population issues, since the creation of awareness seemed to be a priority concern. Several delegations also stressed the importance of addressing the specific needs of women.

457. The administration agreed that the programme was ambitious. However, the Government now had a high level of understanding of population issues, and it was an ideal time to support the strong government commitment. The next stage would be to refine programme targets and to translate them into specific activities. Regarding the need to create awareness, the administration noted that the programme's IEC activities would be channelled through both the formal and informal sectors and aimed at a variety of audiences, including men, women of reproductive age, youth, planners and policy makers, among others. The administration also noted that the specific needs of women were in fact a major concern of the programme.

458. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the first UNFPA country programme for Yemen (DP/FPA/CP/106).

Latin America and the Caribbean

459. The Chief of the Latin America and Caribbean Division made a general statement concerning recent trends in population programming in the region before introducing each of the three country programmes separately.

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Brazil

460. UNFPA proposed a comprehensive, five-year population programme in the amount of $15 million, of which $12 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $3 million from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

461. The specific objectives of the programme would be to: (a) reduce maternal and child morbidity and mortality; (b) strengthen the Government's technical and institutional capacity to produce, analyse and disseminate relevant and disaggregated demographic data; (c) increase the quality and coverage of family planning services through improved information and education on and access to the most appropriate contraceptive methods; (d) reduce unwanted pregnancies, particularly of adolescents; and (e) contribute to the improvement of women's socio-economic status and enhance their participation in the development process.

462. Several delegations commented favourably on the proposed programme. One delegation, while supporting the programme's focus on improving women's reproductive health and enhancing the quality, effectiveness and outreach of family planning services, noted that the programme did not mention contraceptive commodities or provide information on a policy dialogue with the Ministry of Health concerning issues of reproductive health. Another asked what measures UNFPA intended to take to address the needs of abandoned children as well as of the large number of children and adolescents who had to contribute to the support of their families. He and another delegate inquired if UNFPA had any plans to coordinate its activities in this area with other donors, in particular with UNICEF.

463. The administration noted that since contraceptive use in Brazil was highly concentrated in two methods - female sterilization and oral contraceptives - there was a particular need to expand the choices available. Concerning a policy dialogue with the Ministry of Health on reproductive health, the administration pointed out that UNFPA maintained a continuous informal dialogue with the Ministry on this issue. The Fund would also bring this to the attention of the proposed Reproductive Health Task Force. Discussion regarding contraceptive needs and supplies could also be initiated in this context. Concerning UNFPA/UNICEF collaboration, the administration noted that the two organizations had already started discussions on collaborative activities directed at adolescents, in which UNFPA would support components such as sex education. UNFPA had also actively worked with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and USAID, among others, in related activities.

464. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the first UNFPA country programme for Brazil (DP/FPA/CP/105).

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Paraguay

465. UNFPA proposed a comprehensive, four-year population programme in the amount of $5 million, of which $2.5 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $2.5 million from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

466. The immediate objectives of the programme would be to: (a) increase the availability, understanding and utilization of population data, in particular as regards the links between population and development; (b) improve reproductive health, especially among poor rural women and adolescents, by increasing the availability and quality of family planning services; (c) enhance the understanding and support among decision makers and the general public of activities to improve reproductive health; and (d) increase the participation of women's organizations and groups in population programmes.

467. One delegation inquired about the status of coordination between UNFPA and UNDP in Paraguay, as well as between these two organizations and the local authorities.

468. The administration replied that efforts had been made within the context of JCGP to strengthen coordination in the field. Moreover, UNDP and UNFPA had consulted with one another in the preparation of the country programmes for Paraguay that each was submitting to the Council at its current session. The administration also pointed out that the multisectoral population committee that had been established in the Ministry of Planning should facilitate future coordination between UNFPA and government ministries.

469. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the third UNFPA country programme for Paraguay (DP/FPA/CP/104).

Peru

470. UNFPA proposed a comprehensive, four-year population programme in the amount of $12 million, of which $8 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $4 million from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

471. The programme would aim to achieve the following objectives: (a) to facilitate the effective implementation of the core components of the National Population Programme; (b) to facilitate the planning, formulation and implementation of the other components of the national programme; and (c) to assist the Government in developing a framework to coordinate international population assistance in Peru.

472. One delegation stressed the importance of making optimal use of local communities and local experts in programme planning and implementation. Another asked if any progress had been made in improving the interaction

between the private and public sectors, since this has been identified in the country programme report as a major constraint. One Committee member commended UNFPA's commitment to provide contraceptive supplies and asked if the Fund could provide additional resources for family planning and IEC. Another member observed that the programme would be particularly successful if the pertinent ministries and regions played an active role in programme planning and implementation.

473. The administration confirmed that the proposed programme would rely heavily on the participation of local communities and local experts. Interaction between the private and public sectors had improved considerably and a dialogue was now taking place between the sectors, inter alia, through the National Population Council. UNFPA would gladly provide additional resources for contraceptive supplies if such resources were available to the Fund. The proposed programme indeed reflected two levels of funding - one to be programmed from regular resources; the other to be sought from other resources. The administration agreed with the observation concerning the importance of involving the pertinent ministries and in particular the selected regions in all facets of the programme.

474. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fourth UNFPA country programme for Peru (DP/FPA/CP/95).

Sub-Saharan Africa

475. The Deputy Chief of the Africa Division made a general introductory statement concerning recent trends in population programming in the region. The Chief of the Division then introduced each of the 16 country programmes separately, starting with the seven programmes in francophone and lusophone Africa, then presenting the nine programmes in anglophone Africa.

Benin

476. UNFPA proposed a three-year population programme in the amount of $4.6 million, of which $2.8 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $1.8 million from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

477. The overall objectives of the programme were to assist the Government in: (a) reducing infant and child mortality by improving the quality and availability of MCH/FP services in urban and rural areas; (b) improving knowledge of the interrelationships between population and development and integrating population variables into development planning; and (c) improving the status of women in the socio-economic development process.

478. Numerous delegations expressed strong support for the proposed programme. Several delegations emphasized the importance of developing a strategy to address out-of-school youth. One delegation, noting the high

incidence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and infertility in Benin, expressed concern that the proposed programme appeared to give priority to the intra-uterine device (IUD) over other methods of contraception, notably the condom. Several delegations emphasized the importance of using competent regional bodies to provide technical support to country programmes and projects.

479. The administration agreed that youth, both in school and out of school, should be a primary target of UNFPA programmes, as in fact they were. The Fund's information and education strategies typically targeted youth in vocational schools, sports clubs and youth unions, among others. The administration also agreed that the high incidence of STDs and infertility in Benin did warrant the use of other methods of contraception, in particular condoms. Concerning the use of regional organizations for technical support, the administration noted that UNFPA tried to make optimal use of such organizations in its programmes.

480. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the third UNFPA country programme for Benin (DP/FPA/CP/117).

Burundi

481. UNFPA proposed a comprehensive, five-year population programme in the amount of $7.8 million, of which $6 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $1.8 million from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

482. The long-term objectives of the proposed programme would be to: (a) improve the health and well-being of the people, in particular, women adolescents and children; (b) increase the contraceptive prevalence rate; (c) help improve the status of women and enhance their participation in the country's development process; (d) strengthen the country's administrative structures and technical capacity to integrate population factors into development planning; and (e) strengthen the national capacity to collect, analyse and disseminate reliable demographic data and make full use of such data in support of development activities.

483. One delegation expressed concern that HIV/AIDS was dealt with only tangentially in the proposed programme, although it was a major problem in Burundi. Moreover, the programme made no mention of condoms, even though condoms served the dual purpose of providing protection against AIDS and preventing unwanted pregnancy.

484. The administration agreed that condoms were effective both as a means of protection against AIDS and as a method of contraception. The Fund therefore did intend to include condoms as part of the method mix of contraceptives to be used in its programme in Burundi.

485. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the third UNFPA country programme for Burundi (DP/FPA/CP/100).

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Cameroon

486. UNFPA proposed a comprehensive, five-year population programme in the amount of $7.5 million, of which $6 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $1.5 million from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

487. The programme would assist the Government in achieving three broad objectives, each with a corresponding strategy: (a) to design and implement regional and sectoral population programmes based on the national population policy; (b) to improve the health of mothers and children by improving the coverage and quality of MCH/FP services; and (c) to promote the role and status of women and enhance their participation in population and development activities.

488. Several delegations commented on the proposed programme. One commended the programme's focus on urban areas, since this would complement the efforts of other donors, who were active mainly in the rural areas. Another felt that the MCH/FP programme was exemplary. One delegation, noting the lack of mention of TCDC in this and other Africa programmes, stressed the importance of this modality, particularly in the African context. Another delegation noted the critical need to enhance women's participation in the development process. The delegation hoped that the Cameroon country programme would provide a good model in this important area.

489. The administration agreed that TCDC was vital in the African context. UNFPA had tried to expand the use of TCDC but had had only limited success in doing so, in part because of a lack of resources and in part because past attempts had encountered difficulties. The administration also agreed that women's participation in the development process was crucial. It pointed out in this regard that all UNFPA programmes gave high priority to women, both as beneficiaries and as participants.

490. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the second UNFPA country programme for Cameroon (DP/FPA/CP/89).

Gabon

491. UNFPA proposed a comprehensive, five-year population programme in the amount of $2 million.

492. The programme would assist the Government in achieving the following broad objectives: (a) to define a national framework for population activities and a corresponding plan of action; (b) to reduce maternal and infant morbidity and mortality and to address the problems of infertility and adolescent pregnancy; and (c) to enhance the role and status of women and promote their full participation in the country's population and development activities.

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493. One delegation, noting that family planning was not a priority in Gabon, stated that Gabon provided UNFPA with an excellent opportunity to demonstrate that its programmes could be effective in addressing other important concerns such as safe motherhood and responsible parenthood. The delegation expressed concern, however, that UNFPA did not have a Country Director in residence in Gabon. Such resident representation was particularly critical during the conduct of the population and housing census, which was scheduled for 1993.

494. The administration agreed that the urgent needs to be addressed in Gabon were maternal mortality and sterility, not family planning. The UNFPA programme therefore was a birth-spacing programme not a family planning programme. Concerning resident representation in Gabon, the administration explained that the coverage provided by the UNFPA Country Director in neighbouring Congo had been adequate and that the Fund would continue this arrangement in the foreseeable future. The administration further pointed out that the census would be covered by a resident expert, who would monitor the conduct of the census and provide technical assistance. Regional advisers would also be used to provide additional technical assistance if and when needed.

495. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the second UNFPA country programme for Gabon (DP/FPA/CP/107).

Guinea

496. UNFPA proposed a comprehensive, five-year population programme in the amount of $5.9 million, of which $4 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $1.9 million from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

497. The immediate objectives of the programme would be to: (a) formulate and put in effect a national population policy; (b) improve the quality and accessibility of family planning services and to raise the contraceptive prevalence rate; and (c) contribute to developing a policy for promoting the welfare of women, including Safe Motherhood.

498. Several delegations commented on the proposed programme. One expressed a desire to collaborate with UNFPA in integrating family planning services into primary health care. Another delegation hoped that the 1993 census would be carried out much more efficiently than the 1984 census had been. Another Committee member, noting UNFPA's need to seek additional resources from other sources to fund its programmes, recommended that UNFPA field staff contact the local Eurpoean Community (EC) representative for prospective funding of scme activities. He stressed that this would require awareness creation on the part of UNFPA field staff - both of the EC representatives, who were often unfamiliar with population issues, and of government counterparts, who in most cases were unaware of the EC as a source of funding for population activities.

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499. The administration acknowledged that there had been problems with the conduct and analysis of the 1984 census. However, most of the constraints encountered in the previous census had been addressed, and UNFPA was optimistic that the coming census would be successfully and efficiently carried out. Concerning potential EC funding, the administration noted that all UNFPA Country Directors had been informed that population was now part of the Lomé Convention and that they should contact the local EC representative to discuss funding possibilities.

500. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the third UNFPA country programme for Guinea (DP/FPA/CP/96).

Senegal

501. UNFPA proposed a five-year population programme in the amount of $12 million, of which $9 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $3 million from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

502. The immediate objectives would be to assist the Government in: (a) decelerating the deomgraphic growth rate by increasing the modern contraceptive prevalence rate; (b) improving the health of mothers and children by reducing the maternal mortality rate; (c) bringing about behavioural change towards family planning; (d) strengthening the national capability to monitor, coordinate and evaluate the National Population Policy Declaration; and (e) improving all aspects of the status and conditions of women's lives.

503. Numerous delegations made observations on the proposed programme. One asked if UNFPA planned to make use of the services of the Centre for Applied Research on Population and Development (CERPOD), which his Government supported. Another delegation noted that the amount of assistance earmarked for MCH/FP seemed low, given the magnitude of the need for such services in Senegal. A third delegation noted that migration was not addressed in the country programme report. This was particularly notable in view of the fact that during the recent plenary session of the Council many delegations had stressed that UNFPA should play a leadership role in this area.

504. The administration noted that it had long made use of the services of CERPOD. In fact, the first draft of Senegal's population policy was the product of Government/CERPOD collaboration. Concerning the resources allocated to the MCH/FP sector, the administration explained that many other donors were extremely active in this sector. This enabled UNFPA to channel its resources to other sectors, in particular to IEC. The administration agreed that migration was an important factor in Senegal, pointing out in this regard that the President of Senegal had recently addressed the problem on French television.

505. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the third UNFPA country programme for Senegal (DP/FPA/CP/91).

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Mozambique

506. UNFPA proposed a three-year population programme in the amount of $8 million, of which $5 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $3 million from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

507. The broad objectives of the proposed programme would be to assist the Government in: (a) achieving a more balanced population growth and distribution; (b) reducing maternal and infant mortality and morbidity; (c) improving the knowledge of the interrelationships between population and development, and systematically integrating population variables into development planning; and (d) promoting the status of women.

508. A number of delegates commented on the proposed programme. One delegation sought assurances that UNFPA/UNICEF collaboration would be effectively implemented, and well coordinated with the activities of the Ministry of Health. Another delegation, noting the large number of Mozambicans living outside the country, asked how their return would affect the programme. A third delegation stressed that the programme could succeed only if the Government could be encouraged to allocate a larger portion of its resources to the social and health sectors.

509. The administration assured Committee members that UNFPA and UNICEF were in constant contact concerning their respective roles in their collaborative efforts. The potential for overlap was minimal in that UNICEF would concentrate on addressing the needs of children, whereas UNFPA would concentrate on family planning. Moreover, UNFPA planned to assign an adviser to the Ministry of Health to ensure optimum coordination. Concerning the return of Mozambicans living outside the country, the administration stated that it did not plan to provide assistance to refugees. However, the Fund would collaborate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) if appropriate.

510. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the third UNFPA country programme for Mozambique (DP/FPA/CP/93).

Botswana

511. UNFPA proposed a comprehensive, five-year population programme in the amount of $3.7 million, of which $3 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $700,000 from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

512. The broad objectives of the programme would be to assist the Government in: (a) reducing the current rate of population growth; (b) enabling parents to determine the timing and spacing and number of their children by providing them with access to information and modern and effective contraceptive methods; (c) increasing the utilization and quality of family planning services; and (d) reducing the high rate of pregnancy among teenage women.

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513. One delegation, citing the programme's focus on establishing and expanding alternative channels for delivering family planning services to men, recommended that the UNFPA programme draw upon the experiences of neighbouring Zimbabwe, which had had considerable success with male motivation activities.

514. The administration welcomed this suggestion.

515. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the second UNFPA country programme for Botswana (DP/FPA/CP/119).

Gambia

516. UNFPA proposed a comprehensive, five-year population programme in the amount of $4 million, of which $2 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $2 million from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

517. The specific objectives of the programme would be to: (a) reduce maternal mortality; (b) develop a comprehensive population IEC programme and an appropriate institutional framework and to promote the expansion and intensification of IEC activities targeted especially at males and adolescents; (c) increase awareness of population issues and promote responsible parenthood; and (d) enhance the role and status of women.

518. One delegation noted that the programme could succeed only if it made a concerted effort to educate men in family planning and related matters. The delegation also emphasized the importance of taking concrete steps at the village level to ensure the effective implementation of the MCH/FP programme.

519. The administration agreed on the importance of educating men. It also agreed on the need to take concrete steps at the village level. This was addressed in the programme's IEC activities, which would seek, among other things, to create awareness among men, women, youth and community leaders at the community level about such issues as responsible parenthood, safe motherhood and better child care through family planning.

520. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the third UNFPA country programme for Gambia (DP/FPA/CP/108).

Kenya

521. UNFPA proposed a comprehensive, four-year population programme in the amount of $13.6 million, of which $9.6 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $4 million from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

522. The proposed programme would support government efforts: (a) to reduce the rate of population growth; (b) to reduce the total fertility rate; and

(c) to enhance the health and socio-economic status of women and adolescents through improved and expanded MCH/FP services and population IEC activities.

523. Numerous delegations commented on the proposed programme. One noted that the programme should give high priority to family planning activities in the context of reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention. As such, the programme should target men and adolescents as well as women. Another delegation asked if the recent positive demographic trends reflected the beginning of the demographic transition or whether they were merely a temporary phenomenon. This same delegation suggested that adolescent fertility had been adequately researched and that it was not necessary therefore to provide additional funds for this purpose. A third delegation asked whether UNFPA had devised any special measures to help with the coordination of the programme, particularly in view of the many donors active in the population field in Kenya. Another delegation stressed the importance of publishing the results of the 1989 census as soon as possible.

524. The administration agreed that high priority should be given to family planning activities in the context of reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention. UNFPA believed, moreover, that Kenya was in fact about to enter the demographic transition, provided its programme worked well and was well financed. Concerning the funding of further research on adolescent fertility, the administration stated that it was still necessary to carry out such research in order to encourage the Government to support services for adolescents. Regarding coordination, the administration said that this was the responsibility of the Government. UNFPA continued to work closely with the Government in this area, encouraging it to meet regularly with all donors, both separately and collectively. UNFPA agreed that the 1989 census results should be published as soon as possible. Training in up-to-date census software applications would facilitate this undertaking.

525. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fourth UNFPA country programme for Kenya (DP/FPA/CP/110).

Lesotho

526. UNFPA proposed a comprehensive, five-year population programme in the amount of $3.5 million, of which $2.5 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $1 million from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

527. The broad objectives of the country programme would be to: (a) reduce the rate of population growth; (b) improve the quality of family life; (c) enable parents to determine the timing, spacing and number of their children by providing them with access to family planning information and safe contraceptive methods; (d) expand and improve the quality and continuity of contraceptive supply; and (e) improve the status of women and their participation in national development.

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528. Several delegations expressed their full support for the proposed programme.

529. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the second UNFPA country programme for Lesotho (DP/FPA/CP/118).

Malawi

530. UNFPA proposed a comprehensive, five-year population programme in the amount of $10.5 million, of which $6.5 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $4 million from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

531. The specific objectives of the programme would be to: (a) develop and incorporate a population policy into the strategies and programmes of various government ministries, NGOs and the private sector; (b) assist the Government in determining achievable targets to increase the contraceptive prevalence rate; (c) increase the demand for delivery of MCH/FP services; (d) improve the status of women; and (e) increase knowledge and enhance awareness of the interrelationships between population, the environment, and development.

532. One delegate, noting that Malawi was a priority country for his country's population assistance, said that his country would like to collaborate with UNFPA in various population projects.

533. UNFPA welcomed such collaboration.

534. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the third UNFPA country programme for Malawi (DP/FPA/CP/111).

Namibia

535. UNFPA proposed a five-year population programme in the amount of $4.5 million, of which $3 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $1.5 million from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

536. The programme's immediate objectives would be to: (a) facilitate the collection and analysis of data to provide a benchmark for further work in population and development planning; (b) contribute to the creation of awareness on population issues; (c) facilitate the slowing of population growth rates; (d) contribute to the reduction of infant and maternal mortality rates; (e) increase contraceptive prevalence and contribute to a reduction in teenage pregnancies; and (f) to facilitate the integration of population variables into socio-economic planning.

537. Numerous delegations commented on the proposed programme. One delegation noted that her country wished to collaborate with UNFPA in AIDS prevention

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activities. Another said that the UNFPA strategy of integrating family planning services into the primary health care network was the only viable approach. This delegation, however, felt that the $1 million allocated to data collection was too high, given the success of recent census enumeration.

538. The administration replied that only $300,000 of the $1 million allocated to data collection was allocated from UNFPA regular resources. The remaining $700,000 was to be provided under a multi-bilateral arrangement. Furthermore, the UNFPA allocation would be used to analyse, process and disseminate census data.

539. In response to the administration, the representative of one delegation noted that her Government had already allocated $1.5 million for the conduct of the census. It would not therefore allocate additional resources to data collection activities in Namibia.

540. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the first UNFPA country programme for Namibia (DP/FPA/CP/115).

Nigeria

541. UNFPA proposed a five-year population programme in the amount of $35 million, of which $21 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $14 million from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

542. The main objectives of the programme would be to: (a) contribute to a decrease in maternal and infant mortality; (b) achieve a lower population growth rate through the reduction of fertility; and (c) enhance the status and condition of women and encourage their full participation as equal partners in the development process of the country.

543. Several delegations commented on the proposed programme. One delegation, noting that Nigeria was a priority country for his country's assistance, said that his country looked forward to collaboration with UNFPA. He also noted that his country hoped to be able to make up for some of the $14 million shortfall in UNFPA regular resources. Another delegation observed that the UNFPA programme complemented her country's $70 million, seven-year programme in Nigeria. A third delegate asked if the revised estimated population of Nigeria, which was some 20 million less than the earlier United Nations projection, would result in commensurate reduction of the UNFPA resources earmarked for the programme. This delegation also sought clarification on the prevalence of AIDS in the country.

544. The administration, expressing its appreciation for the pledge of additional resources, noted that the lower estimate would not affect the level of resources earmarked for the programme. Indeed, the programme's proposed budget still fell well short of that which was needed. Regarding the incidence of AIDS, the administration pointed out that the data on AIDS were

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insufficient and that the incidence of AIDS was likely much higher than reported by the Federal Ministry of Health. None the less, the Ministry was aware of the inadequacy of the data on AIDS and thus had initiated efforts to improve data collection and reporting.

545. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the third UNFPA country programme for Nigeria (DP/FPA/CP/94).

Swaziland

546. UNFPA proposed a five-year population programme in the amount of $2.75 million, of which $2 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $750,000 from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

547. The broad objectives of the proposed country programme would be to assist the Government in: (a) achieving a balanced population growth commensurate with resources; (b) reducing infant and maternal mortality and teenage pregnancy; (c) creating awareness and public understanding of population issues; (d) improving the national capacity to integrate demographic variables into national development planning; and (e) promoting the status of women through the elimination of practices that hinder their participation in population and development activities.

548. Several delegates expressed support for the proposed programme.

549. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the second UNFPA country programme for Swaziland (DP/FPA/CP/116).

United Republic of Tanzania

550. UNFPA proposed a five-year population programme in the amount of $21 million, of which $13 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources. UNFPA would seek to provide the remaining $8 million from a combination of sources, including multi-bilateral sources.

551. The objectives of the programme would be to assist the Government in: (a) expanding and improving the quality of MCH/FP services in order to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity and infant mortality; (b) developing and implementing a comprehensive, multimedia national population IEC programme; (c) integrating population factors into development planning; (d) strengthening the national capacity to collect, process, disseminate and integrate population information into development planning; (e) enhancing the status of women and their participation in population and development activities; and (f) promoting awareness of the linkages between population, development and the environment.

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552. A number of countries commented on the proposed programme. One noted with satisfaction that the UNFPA programme closely complemented her country's population programme in the United Republic of Tanzania as well as those of other donors. She expressed concern, however, that the proposed level of assistance was twice that of the previous UNFPA programme. Another delegation, emphasizing the importance of family planning, said that it was essential for UNFPA to make every effort to provide the full amount recommended in the programme. A third delegation, expressing concern about UNICEF/UNFPA coordination in the area of MCH/FP, asked if there were mechanisms in place to ensure optimum collaboration between the two organizations.

553. In response to the query about the doubling of resources over the Fund's previous programme, the administration noted that the Government had recently begun to implement its population programme. UNFPA hoped that its assistance would help the government programme gain momentum in the next few years. Moreover, as indicated by the discussion in today's Standing Committee, several donors may be forthcoming with additional resources. Concerning UNICEF/UNFPA coordination, the administration pointed out that the two organizations maintained close consultations at the field level. Furthermore, as in other UNFPA programmes, UNFPA would concentrate on family planning activities whereas UNICEF would concentrate on addressing the needs of children. UNFPA would also assign an adviser to the Ministry of Health to help oversee the coordination of activities in this area.

554. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the third UNFPA country programme for the United Republic of Tanzania (DP/FPA/CP/113).

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VII. EVALUATION

Evaluation

555. The Director of the Central Evaluation Office (CEO) introduced the report of the Administrator on evaluation (DP/1992/20). The report gave a review of CEO over the last five years, and of its main activities relating to the issuing of guidelines on monitoring and evaluation, the establishment of a computerized institutional memory for feedback purposes, and the strengthening of national monitoring and evaluation capacity. In addition, it describes the feedback of evaluation results into the work of UNDP and set out the 1992-1993 workplan of CEO.

556. The Director also described the future priorities of the Office in focusing on: (a) programme evaluations (national, regional or thematic); (b) strategic evaluations relating to the overall performance of UNDP in the six areas of concentration, and certain areas of the SPR programme; and (c) policy evaluations, relating, for example, to strengthening national capacity in support of human development. All the above would be instruments for improving the feedback from the lessons learned.

557. All delegations commended the quality of the report and appreciated the efforts of CEO to respond to the suggestions made by the Council at its thirty-eighth session. One delegation expressed its satisfaction that evaluation was being taken so seriously, and that the 1992-1993 workplan would cover a full range of activities. However, another delegation recognized that while there was little doubt about the need for evaluation, in practice it was rare for the lessons of such evaluations to be systematically followed up. This seemed to suggest two questions: the need to pay more attention to feedback, and the need to stress national capacity-building so as to strengthen awareness of the needs and implications of corrective measures, and the choice of alternative solutions.

558. With regard to current activities, some delegations expressed their support for the establishment of evaluation guidelines for current UNDP initiatives, viz. the programme approach and national execution, as well as for the evaluation of thematic areas of concern. However, one delegation questioned the results given in paragraph 44 on the quality of projects and evaluations, implying that the methodology might need to be amplified so that projects could be evaluated in terms of their actual or expected sustainability of impact and results, and not just in terms of design and performance.

559. Concerning the subject of feedback from lessons learned, several delegations stressed its importance for improving programme and project quality. Most delegations welcomed the initiative shown by CEO in launching a study on the current feedback system and one delegation expressed its interest in actively participating in the exercise. Some delegations appreciated the objectivity and relevance of recommendations emerging from the different evaluations carried out by CEO, and asked to what extent those recommendations

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were used for feedback purposes. Several delegations recommended that UNDP should make more use of ex-post evaluations as a means of assessing the impact and sustainability of the results of its technical cooperation programme.

560. With regard to future priorities, most delegations emphasized the need to strengthen the national capacity of recipient countries in monitoring and evaluation in order to assist national officials and beneficiaries in effectively taking stock of lessons learned in the development process of their countries. Some delegations expressed support for UNDP efforts to assist developing countries through country monographs, study tours and training courses.

561. One delegation endorsed CEO's initial steps towards focusing its evaluation activities so as to cover gender issues and environmental concerns as well. The same delegation stressed the need to examine cost-effectiveness in project evaluations and to carry out many more ex-post evaluations in order to assess the longer-term impact of UNDP activities. Another delegation suggested that tripartite reviews be expanded to include beneficiaries. Furthermore, the suggestion was made by one delegation that future guidelines on the programme approach should involve an updating of guidelines on monitoring and evaluation, so that the programme dimension could be taken into full consideration.

562. While participants supported the CEO workplan for the biennium 1992-1993, some expressed the view that it seemed to be unduly ambitious as well as fragmented, and should therefore be revised. Some participants welcomed the inclusion in the work programme of the initiatives related to joint and participatory evaluations, and encouraged CEO to continue to promote the use of national consultants in evaluation activities.

563. It was noted that current levels of CEO staff resources might be a major constraint in carrying out the workplan. Several delegations therefore recommended that CEO be strengthened to enable it to carry out its increasingly heavy responsibilities.

564. With regard to future priorities, several delegations supported CEO's proposal that it should develop its evaluation activities at programme (including country programmes), strategy and policy levels. One delegation stressed the need for impact evaluation at the programme level, and for attention to be given at the outset to developing baseline data and performance indicators for such evaluations.

565. It was noted that CEO had also scheduled 50 ex-post evaluations (thematic, sectoral and cluster) with resources provided by SPR funding; eight such evaluations were planned in the current biennium. Delegations also expressed their support for the demand-driven approach used by CEO and suggested that it should not be limited to UNDP only, but should also be used to satisfy recipient countries' demands. The exercises in question would provide an assessment of impact and sustainability.

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566. The Director of the Central Evaluation Office responded to the comments made, and expressed his gratitude for the interest and support shown for the work of CEO. He took note of the points made and promised to follow up on them as appropriate.

567. He noted with satisfaction that UNDP was playing an important role in evaluation, and in developing ideas and methodologies for learning from and feeding back experience. Its role in those respects was recognized by Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members and recipient countries, as evidenced by the special responsibility assigned to CEO in following up the outcome of the recently sponsored regional seminar on performance evaluation in Asia and the Pacific. All these efforts had strengthened CEO's relationships with evaluation authorities.

568. The Standing Committee took note of the Administrator's report and endorsed a draft decision on evaluation submitted by the Nordic countries to the Governing Council at its present session for its approval.

VIII. MATTERS REFERRED TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

The programme approach

569. The Assistant Administrator introduced the report of the Administrator on the programme approach (DP/1992/46), which described the steps taken by UNDP to follow up on the recommendations of General Assembly resolution 44/211, with reference to the need to place UNDP assistance in the context of national programme frameworks. He referred to the letter of guidance of 24 January transmitting to Resident Representatives and specialized agencies the Consolidated Report on the Santiago and Geneva Workshops on the Programme Approach, and also to the meeting with United Nations specialized agencies on 8 May 1992, both of which had contributed to refining the issues and facilitating a common understanding of a concept that was gaining increasing acceptance as the main programming tool for the years ahead. He indicated that the next stage would be the preparation of guidelines, together with experimentation and the sharing of experience.

570. Many delegations gave their views on document DP/1992/46. While there was general endorsement of the programme approach as both a concept and a tool, the need to understand its operational implications was expressed. It was recognized that the programme approach involved the formulation of national programmes that identified components for which support could subsequently be given by donors, including UNDP, according to their respective comparative advantages. Delegations were also informed that a major observation of United Nations specialized agencies was that the concept should be broadened to include regional, interregional and global programmes, and, where possible, to link these to national programmes.

571. It was noted that considerable experimentation was taking place in many countries, and delegations expressed interest in learning the results. A subsequent informal consultation on the programme approach provided delegations with an opportunity to learn about the experience in the Gambia with the formulation of the Economic Management Capacity-Building Programme.

572. Delegations identified a number of areas where clarification or follow-up was required, for instance:

(a) The need for performance indicators at the programme level to facilitate monitoring and evaluation;

(b) The need to issue guidelines as early as possible so as to provide field offices, agencies and Governments with an operational tool for the preparation of national programmes and the formulation of appropriate UNDP and other support. At the same time, such guidelines would save effort and potential frustration and avoid the proliferation of many different formats. Several delegations proposed that such guidelines should be communicated to the Standing Committee for information and review prior to finalization. One delegation mentioned that this should not be seen as micro-management by the Committee, but rather as an opportunity for mutual exchange of views in the continuing context of dialogue and partnership between UNDP and donors. It would also enable UNDP to share its experience with bilateral programmes;

(c) The need to delegate approval authority on the basis of policy and substantive criteria rather than on a financial limit. Thus, headquarters should be involved only at the programme level, by approving assistance to programmes identified in the country programme. One delegation suggested that if a financial limit existed it could be fixed at $5 million, or one fifth of the IPF. The delegation cited the experience of another delegation in that although programmes might have been approved at the headquarters level, individual projects still had to be approved by headquarters if they exceeded the $700,000 limit. Under this scenario, Resident Representatives and Governments would be responsible for the design and implementation of programmes and UNDP support, and for ensuring that the desired impact was made. Headquarters would provide the appropriate policy guidance and endorsement, and would assume a greater backstopping and monitoring function;

(d) The need to proceed with an extensive trial period, prior to generalized use of the programme approach, thus giving an opportunity to test its relative costs and benefits and to streamline approval procedures;

(e) The need to establish programme management arrangements, including coordination mechanisms, with both national and donor organizations involved in implementation;

(f) The need to clarify and test the concept, the appropriateness, and the operational modalities of using output budgets as a tool for choice of outputs and activities, and/or for disbursement of funds on the basis of outputs produced;

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(g) The need to take into account the risks of providing support to programmes, and thereby assessing in advance the realistic chances of attaining programme and project objectives;

(h) The need to share examples of programme approaches applied in different countries, for instance India (leather and jute programmes), Malawi, Bolivia, Ghana (fisheries), China (machine tools) etc., as well as sectoral programmes (e.g., education). A compilation and analysis of such experiences could be a useful input into the work of the Standing Committee;

(i) The need to provide an appropriate conceptual framework for those countries in which a programme approach may not be feasible, or desired by the Government, for instance, those with very limited IPF resources;

(j) The need to review the continuing validity of the tripartite relationship, in the context of increasing trends towards national execution, and diversity of sources of implementing agents. These could be national and/or international agencies, including those in the United Nations system;

(k) The need to proceed with the approval of the country programmes during the pilot phase;

(l) The need to make a progress report to the Governing Council at its fortieth session.

573. The Standing Committee took note of the above observations. In order to provide the appropriate policy guidelines for the continuing work on the programme approach, a draft decision on the programme approach was submitted by delegations from eight countries.

574. After further discussion, the Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the draft decision on the programme approach, contained in document DP/1992/L.18.

IX. FUTURE PROGRAMME OF WORK, INCLUDING FIELD VISITS

Future programme of work

575. The Assistant Administrator, BPPE, introduced the topic. The main conclusions are given below.

A. Future programme of work

576. The Assistant Administrator proposed that the Standing Committee consider means how best to:

(a) Prepare an initial schedule of mid-term reviews and evaluations for those country, intercountry, global and SPR programmes and projects of particular interest to the Standing Committee;

(b) Analyse the programme implications of the recommendations of reports of the Joint Inspection Unit;

(c) Ensure that reports of field visits are prepared and submitted to the Standing Committee;

(d) Review matters referred to the Standing Committee by the Governing Council;

(e) Prepare a programme of work for the Standing Committee for the remainder of 1992 and 1993.

577. One delegation wished to emphasize the importance of mid-term reviews and evaluations and suggested that a schedule, criteria and process for the mid-term reviews should be prepared.

578. In response, the Assistant Administrator indicated that the new format for mid-term reviews would be based on the requirements of decision 90/33 and would be communicated to the Governing Council. It was likely that this would incorporate, inter alia, the need for information on impact, using specific performance criteria that should be identified at the design stage.

579. In response to a question about the complementarity between the mid-term review and evaluations, it was indicated that evaluations would include country programme evaluations, thematic evaluations, and national programme evaluations, which would draw conclusions at the end of a given time-frame rather than at mid-term.

B. Field visits

580. The next round of field visits scheduled for 1992 would be to the Arab States and to Latin America, probably in the first two weeks of September.

581. Requests had been received from delegates asking to participate a second time in the field visits. Presumably, priority would have to be given to those members who had not yet participated in a first visit, but the Standing Committee might wish to address such requests.

582. Two delegations were of the view that Governments should be informed well in advance about the dates for planned visits. They also wanted to know the criteria used to determine a particular field visit. Another delegation was of the view that in arranging field visits, UNDP should minimize high-level contacts with Governments in favour of field level ones.

583. The Assistant Administrator welcomed the valuable comments made by delegations on field visits. He noted that no specific criteria were set out in Governing Council decision 91/2 for the selection and timing of countries to be visited except in the sense that they would be determined by the Standing Committee in consultation with UNDP, UNFPA and the countries

involved. He agreed that it might be easier to arrange visits if high-level officials were not directly involved. It was evident, however, that for reasons of courtesy and protocol and, indeed, to facilitate practical arrangements, high-level contacts were often desirable at the beginning and/or end of a visit. Such contacts enabled senior government officials to give their own frank views on UNDP operations and at the same time enable members of the mission to discuss matters of particular concern to them.

584. He assured delegations that the dates and countries selected for the March 1993 field visits would be communicated to members of the Governing Council after due consultation with the parties concerned.

X. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS ON ITS IN-SESSIONAL MEETING HELD DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, 10-14 FEBRUARY 1992

585. In concluding the twenty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee, the Chairman expressed his gratitude for, and appreciation of, the substantial work accomplished by the Committee, namely recommendations to the Governing Council on (a) the approval of 57 country programmes, 4 inter-country programmes and 1 global and interregional programme, and 3 country programme extensions for two years; (b) the review of 45 country and 1 regional programme extensions of one year, which had already been approved by the Administrator; (c) recommendations regarding programme implementation through project approval on a project-by-project basis; (d) recomendations for approval of eight global projects; (e) recommendations for approval of 31 UNFPA country programmes; (f) recommendation for the approval of an SPR programming document on the Social Dimensions of Adjustment; and finally (g) review of experience of field visits by members of the Governing Council.

586. He also cited the important advances made in the quality of country programme documentation, which had already been commended by several delegations. In that respect, he noted with satisfaction the clear evidence that the concerns of the Governing Council were finding their expression in country programmes, particularly in relation to the need for a more concentrated and programme-oriented approach to country programme design, and in the strengthening of the UNDP aid coordination role.

587. The Standing Committee also recommended six draft decisions for endorsement by the Governing Council, relating to the above approvals; to country programming and mid-term reviews; to evaluation; to the programme approach; and finally to the criteria to be followed for project approvals in two countries.

588. In accomplishing the above, particular thanks were given for the cooperative and constructive way in which delegations made their comments on programmes, projects and draft decisions submitted for the Standing Committee's consideration. These helped to develop consensus among different views, as well as to identify areas where follow-up action was required, both

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in the field and at headquarters. In this context, the harmonious working relationships and teamwork which were developed between delegations and UNDP staff were no doubt a satisfactory outcome of the many joint tasks which they had to carry out, the results of which would hopefully be felt in many varied ways as the operational links between donors, recipients and UNDP were progressively strengthened.

589. The Chairman also took the opportunity to thank the Bureau Directors, and the 12 Resident Representatives who introduced the country programmes of their respective country of assignment, and who provided a valuable field view at the informal consultations organized between them and members of the Committee. He also expressed his appreciation for the contributions of the Deputy Executive Director (Programme) of UNFPA and the Division Chiefs of UNFPA.

590. Finally, the Chairman expressed his sincere thanks to the Rapporteur, and to members of the Secretariat responsible for the preparation and editing of the report of the Committee's discussions, as well as for the secretarial, translation and interpretation services provided.

591. In reply, one delegation, expressing views which he considered were representative of the delegations present, paid a special tribute and word of thanks to the Chairman of the Standing Committee, Dr. Martin Adouki (Congo); for the efficient and effective way in which he had handled and expedited the Committee's deliberations, thus enabling it to complete its work on schedule, and with the success noted above. The same delegation also commended highly the work and efforts of the Secretariat, and the provision of the necessary documentation, and support services.

XI. DECISIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS

DRAFT DECISION I

United Nations Development Programme

Country, intercountry and global programmes

I

The Governing Council

Approves the following country programmes:

Africa

Fifth country programme for Botswana	DP/CP/BOT/5 DP/CP/BOT/NOTE/5
Fifth country programme for Burkina Faso	DP/CP/BKF/5 DP/CP/BKF/NOTE/5
Fifth country programme for Cameroon	DP/CP/CMR/5 DP/CP/CMR/NOTE/5
Fifth country programme for Central African Republic	DP/CP/CAF/5 DP/CP/CAF/NOTE/5
Fourth country programme for Comoros	DP/CP/COI/4 DP/CP/COI/NOTE/4
Fifth country programme for Gambia	DP/CP/GAM/5 DP/CP/GAM/NOTE/5
Fifth country programme for Guinea	DP/CP/GUI/5 DP/CP/GUI/NOTE/5
Fifth country programme for Lesotho	DP/CP/LES/5 DP/CP/LES/NOTE/5
Fifth country programme for Mali	DP/CP/MLI/5 DP/CP/MLI/NOTE/5 DP/CP/MLI/5/Corr.1
Fifth country programme for Niger	DP/CP/NER/5 DP/CP/NER/NOTE/5
Fifth country programme for Nigeria	DP/CP/NIR/5 DP/CP/NIR/NOTE/5

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Africa (continued)

Fourth country programme for Seychelles	DP/CP/SEY/4
Fourth country programme for Uganda	DP/CP/UGA/4 DP/CP/UGA/NOTE/4

Arab States

Fifth country programme for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	DP/CP/JOR/5 DP/CP/JOR/NOTE/5
Fifth country programme for Morocco	DP/CP/MOR/5 DP/CP/MOR/NOTE/5
Fifth country programme for Saudi Arabia	DP/CP/SAU/5 DP/CP/SAU/NOTE/5
Fifth country programme for Syrian Arab Republic	DP/CP/SYR/5 DP/CP/SYR/NOTE/5
Fifth country programme for the United Arab Emirates	DP/CP/UAE/5 DP/CP/UAE/NOTE/5
First country programme for the Republic of Yemen	DP/CP/ROY/1 DP/CP/ROY/NOTE/1

Europe

Fourth country programme for the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic	DP/CP/CZE/4 DP/CP/CZE/NOTE/4
Fifth country programme for Hungary	DP/CP/HUN/5 DP/CP/HUN/NOTE/5
Fifth country programme for Poland	DP/CP/POL/5 DP/CP/POL/NOTE/5

Asia and the Pacific

Fifth country programme for Bhutan	DP/CP/BHU/5 DP/CP/BHU/NOTE/5
Third country programme for the Cook Islands*	DP/CP/CKI/3

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* Note by the Administrator (Combined) DP/CP/RAP/NOTE/1.

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Asia and the Pacific (continued)

Third country programme for Kiribati*	DP/CP/KIR/3
Fifth country programme for Lao People's Democratic Republic	DP/CP/LAO/5 DP/CP/LAO/NOTE/5
Fifth country programme for Malaysia	DP/CP/MAL/5 DP/CP/MAL/NOTE/5
Fifth country programme for Nepal	DP/CP/NEP/5 DP/CP/NEP/NOTE/5
Fourth country programme for Niue*	DP/CP/NIU/4
Fifth country programme for Samoa*	DP/CP/SAM/5
Fifth country programme for the Solomon Islands*	DP/CP/SOI/5
Fifth country programme for Thailand	DP/CP/THA/5
Third country programme for Tokelau*	DP/CP/TOK/3
Third country programme for Tuvalu*	DP/CP/TUV/3

Latin America and the Caribbean

Second country programme for Anguilla	DP/CP/ANL/2
Third country programme for Antigua and Barbuda	DP/CP/ANT/3
Fifth country programme for Argentina	DP/CP/ARG/5 DP/CP/ARG/NOTE/5
Fourth country programme for Belize	DP/CP/BZE/4

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* Note by the Administrator (Combined) DP/CP/RAP/NOTE/1.

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Latin America and the Caribbean (continued)

Fifth country programme for Bolivia	DP/CP/BOL/5 DP/CP/BOL/NOTE/5
Fifth country programme for Brazil	DP/CP/BRA/5 DP/CP/BRA/NOTE/5
Fifth multi-island programme for the countries of the Eastern Caribbean	DP/CP/CAR/5
Fifth country programme for Chile	DP/CP/CHI/5 DP/CP/CHI/NOTE/5
Fifth country programme for Costa Rica	DP/CP/COS/5 DP/CP/COS/NOTE/5
Third country programme for Dominica	DP/CP/DMI/3
Fifth country programme for the Dominican Republic	DP/CP/DOM/5 DP/CP/DOM/NOTE/5
Third country programme for Grenada	DP/CP/GRN/3
Sixth country programme for Guatemala	DP/CP/GUA/6 DP/CP/GUA/NOTE/6
Fifth country programme for Honduras	DP/CP/HON/5 DP/CP/HON/NOTE/5
Fifth country programme for Mexico	DP/CP/MEX/5 DP/CP/MEX/NOTE/5
Third country programme for Montserrat	DP/CP/MOT/3
Fifth country programme for Nicaragua	DP/CP/NIC/5 DP/CP/NIC/NOTE/5
Fifth country programme for Paraguay	DP/CP/PAR/5 DP/CP/PAR/NOTE/5
Third country programme for Saint Kitts and Nevis	DP/CP/STK/3
Third country programme for Saint Lucia	DP/CP/STL/3

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Latin America and the Caribbean (continued)

Third country programme for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	DP/CP/STV/3
Fifth country programme for Uruguay	DP/CP/URU/5 DP/CP/URU/NOTE/5
Fifth country programme for Venezuela	DP/CP/VEN/5

II

Approves the fifth country programme for Malawi, subject to:

(a) A policy review, after one year, of the enabling social and political environment and its effect on the implementation of the country programme;

(b) A technical review (in the form of a mid-term review) of the country programme as soon as such a review would be meaningful.

III

Takes note of the following extensions of country programmes:

Africa

Extension of the second country programme for Angola	DP/CP/ANG/EXTENSION I
Extension of the fourth country programme for Côte d'Ivoire	DP/CP/IVC/4/EXTENSION I
Extension of the third country programme for Equatorial Guinea	DP/CP/EQG/3/EXTENSION I
Extension of the fourth country programme for Ethiopia	DP/CP/ETH/4/EXTENSION I
Extension of the third country programme for Guinea-Bissau	DP/CP/GBS/3/EXTENSION I
Extension of the fifth country programme for Kenya	DP/CP/KEN/5/EXTENSION I
Extension of the fourth country programme for Madagascar	DP/CP/MAG/4/EXTENSION I
Extension of the fourth country programme for Mauritania	DP/CP/MAU/4/EXTENSION I

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Africa (continued)

Extension of the third country programme for Mauritius	DP/CP/MAR/4/EXTENSION I
Extension of the third country programme for Mozambique	DP/CP/MOZ/3/EXTENSION I
Extension of the third country programme for Sao Tome and Principe	DP/CP/STP/3/EXTENSION I
Extension of the fourth country programme for Swaziland	DP/CP/SWA/4/EXTENSION I
Extension of the fourth country programme for Togo	DP/CP/TOG/4/EXTENSION I
Extension of the fourth country programme for the United Republic of Tanzania	DP/CP/URT/4/EXTENSION I
Extension of the fourth country programme for Zaire	DP/CP/ZAI/4/EXTENSION I
Extension of the second country programme for Zimbabwe	DP/CP/ZIM/2/EXTENSION I

Asia and the Pacific

Extension of the fourth country programme for Papua New Guinea	DP/CP/PNG/4/EXTENSION I
Extension of the fourth country programme for the Republic of Korea	DP/CP/ROK/4/EXTENSION I
Extension of the second country programme for Vanuatu	DP/CP/VAN/2/EXTENSION I

Arab States

Extension of the fifth country programme for Algeria	DP/CP/ALG/5/EXTENSION I
Extension of the fourth country programme for Bahrain	DP/CP/BAH/4/EXTENSION I
Extension of the second country programme for Djibouti	DP/CP/DJI/2/EXTENSION I
Extension of the fourth country programme for Egypt	DP/CP/EGY/4/EXTENSION I

Arab States (continued)

Extension of the fourth country programme for Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	DP/CP/LIB/4/EXTENSION I
Extension of the fourth country programme for the Sultanate of Oman	DP/CP/OMA/4/EXTENSION I
Extension of the second country programme for Qatar	DP/CP/QAT/2/EXTENSION I
Extension of the third country programme for Sudan	DP/CP/SUD/3/EXTENSION I

Europe

Extension of the third country programme for Albania	DP/CP/ALB/3/EXTENSION I
Extension of the fourth country programme for Bulgaria	DP/CP/BUL/4/EXTENSION I
Extension of the fourth country programme for Malta	DP/CP/MAT/4/EXTENSION I
Extension of the fourth country programme for Romania	DP/CP/ROM/4/EXTENSION I

Latin America and the Caribbean States

Extension of the first country programme for Aruba	DP/CP/ARU/1/EXTENSION I
Extension of the second country programme for Bahamas	DP/CP/BHA/2/EXTENSION I
Extension of the fourth country programme for Barbados	DP/CP/BAR/4/EXTENSION I
Extension of the second country programme for the British Virgin Islands	DP/CP/BVI/2/EXTENSION I
Extension of the second country programme for the Cayman Islands	DP/CP/CAY/2/EXTENSION I
Extension of the fourth country programme for El Salvador	DP/CP/ELS/4/EXTENSION I
Extension of the fourth country programme for Guyana	DP/CP/GUY/4/EXTENSION I

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Latin America and the Caribbean States (continued)

Extension of the fourth country programme for Jamaica	DP/CP/JAM/4/EXTENSION I
Extension of the second country programme for the Netherlands Antilles	DP/CP/NAN/2/EXTENSION I
Extension of the fourth country programme for Panama	DP/CP/PAN/4/EXTENSION I
Extension of the third country programme for Suriname	DP/CP/SUR/3/EXTENSION I
Extension of the fourth country programme for Trinidad and Tobago	DP/CP/TRI/4/EXTENSION I
Extension of the second country programme for Turks and Caicos Islands	DP/CP/TCI/2/EXTENSION I

IV

Approves the extension of the following country programmes for a period of two years:

Extension of the fourth country programme for Gabon	DP/CP/GAB/4/EXTENSION I
Extension of the fourth country programme for the Islamic Republic of Iran	DP/CP/IRA/4/EXTENSION I
Extension of the third country programme for Turkey	DP/CP/TUR/3/EXTENSION I

V

Approves the following intercountry programmes:

Africa	DP/RAF/4 DP/RAF/NOTE/4
Asia and the Pacific	DP/CP/RAP/2 DP/CP/RAP/NOTE/2
Europe	DP/CP/REU/3 DP/1992/REU/3/CORR DP/CP/REU/NOTE/3
Latin America and the Caribbean	DP/RLA/4 DP/RLA/NOTE/4

VI

Takes note of the extension of the regional programme for Arab States (DP/RAB/2/EXTENSION I) for one year.

VII

1. *Approves* the global and interregional programmes for the fifth programming cycle (DP/INTGLO/2 and Corr.1).

2. *Approves* the following global projects:

Children's Health Research Programme	DP/PROJECTS/REC/42
Human Reproductive Health	DP/PROJECTS/REC/43
Special programme for Research and Training on Tropical Diseases	DP/PROJECTS/REC/44
Ecologically Sustainable Cassava Plant Protection in South America and Africa: An Environmentally Sound Approach	DP/PROJECTS/REC/45
Reducing Maize Losses to Insect Pests by Enhancing Host Plant Resistance with Bacillus Thuringiensis Toxin Genes	DP/PROJECTS/REC/46
Genetic Improvement of Farmed Tilapia	DP/PROJECTS/REC/47
Biotechnology-assisted Breeding to Reduce Pesticide Use in Potato Production	DP/PROJECTS/REC/48
A Global Musa Testing Programme	DP/PROJECTS/REC/49

VIII

Authorizes the Administrator to approve projects on a project-by-project basis for the following countries: Afghanistan; Cambodia; Haiti; Kuwait; Lebanon; Liberia; Myanmar and Yugoslavia.

IX

Approves the Special Programme Resources programming document on the social dimension of adjustment contained in document DP/1992/52 with the addendum approved by the Council at its thirty-ninth session and to be issued as document DP/1992/52/Add.1.

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United Nations Population Fund

The Governing Council,

1. Approves the following country programmes:

Sub-Saharan Africa

Benin	DP/FPA/CP/117
Botswana	DP/FPA/CP/119
Burundi	DP/FPA/CP/100
Cameroon	DP/FPA/CP/89
Gabon	DP/FPA/CP/107
Gambia	DP/FPA/CP/108
Guinea	DP/FPA/CP/96
Kenya	DP/FPA/CP/110
Lesotho	DP/FPA/CP/116
Malawi	DP/FPA/CP/111
Mozambique	DP/FPA/CP/93
Namibia	DP/FPA/CP/115
Nigeria	DP/FPA/CP/94
Senegal	DP/FPA/CP/91
Swaziland	DP/FPA/CP/116
United Republic of Tanzania	DP/FPA/CP/113

Arab States and Europe

Egypt	DP/FPA/CP/101
Jordan	DP/FPA/CP/112
Sudan	DP/FPA/CP/97
Yemen	DP/FPA/CP/106

Asia and the Pacific

Bhutan	DP/FPA/CP/114
Mongolia	DP/FPA/CP/102
Nepal	DP/FPA/CP/109
Papua New Guinea	DP/FPA/CP/98
South Pacific subregion	DP/FPA/CP/99
Sri Lanka	DP/FPA/CP/92
Thailand	DP/FPA/CP/90
Viet Nam	DP/FPA/CP/103

Latin America and the Caribbean

Brazil	DP/FPA/CP/103
Paraguay	DP/FPA/CP/104
Peru	DP/FPA/CP/95

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DRAFT DECISION II

Country programming and mid-term reviews

The Governing Council,

Recalling decisions 88/17 of 1 July 1988 and 89/11 of 24 February 1989,

Taking note of the country programmes presented for approval by the Governing Council at its thirty-ninth session,

Reaffirming the need for the Administrator to carry out mid-term reviews of (a) all country programmes and (b) all regional, interregional and global programmes,

1. *Welcomes* the clearer, more structured form of country programme documents prepared by the Administrator for consideration by the Council at its thirty-ninth session;

2. *Requests* the Administrator to include in mid-term review documents a brief analysis of:

(a) Levels of national execution, together with experience gained;

(b) United Nations Development Programme assistance in national capacity-building at the policy and programme formulation, management and evaluation levels;

(c) Experience with the new support costs arrangements, including problems encountered in their implementation;

(d) Experience with the programme approach, including the use of alternative programme support mechanisms and the extent to which it has changed the focus of the country programme;

3. *Requests* the Administrator to include in future country programme documents:

(a) More consistent information on lessons learned from previous programming cycles and mid-term reviews, especially the areas discussed in paragraphs 2 (a) and 2 (d) of the present decision;

(b) More comprehensive indicators of performance;

4. *Also requests* the Administrator to continue to increase the focus of country programmes on a smaller number of concentration areas according to recipient country needs, taking into account the comparative advantages of the United Nations Development Programme;

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5. Invites the Administrator to submit to the Governing Council at its special session in 1993 a tentative timetable for the various mid-term reviews to be carried out in the years 1993-1995, together with his proposals on how he will report on the outcomes of the reviews, bearing in mind decision 89/11 of 24 February 1989;

6. Requests the Administrator to report to the Governing Council at its [fortieth] session on progress achieved in the harmonization of programme cycles and programming procedures among members of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy;

7. Requests the Administrator, in this connection, to increase his efforts to stagger the scheduling of country programmes throughout the programming cycle;

8. Stresses that the six priority themes established in decision 90/34 of 23 June 1990 should be taken into account in the formulation of national capacity-building assistance strategies, but need not necessarily form the primary areas of concentration of United Nations Development Programme-assisted programmes and projects;

9. Decides that the Administrator's note on individual country programmes will be prepared for submission presentation to the Governing Council only when necessary.

DRAFT DECISION III

Programme approach

Recalling its decisions 90/21 of 22 June 1990 and 91/27 of 21 June 1991, in which the Governing Council recognized the need for the United Nations Development Programme assistance to be designed in such a way as to provide more flexible and effective support to national development programmes and ensure their sustainability,

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator (DP/1992/46), which further defines the conceptual framework for the programme approach and of the views of the Governing Council on this matter;

2. Stresses that the programme approach should be applied on a country-specific basis and that the use of a variety of operational tools and programme-support mechanisms should be explored and encouraged in implementing that approach;

3. Further stresses that, while experimenting with the various tools and mechanisms, the United Nations Development Programme should continue to ensure the smooth implementation of country programmes;

4. Encourages the United Nations Development Programme, in consultation with Governments and United Nations specialized agencies to continue its work on the formulation of guiding principles for the programme approach in line with this decision, taking into account, inter alia, the need to:

(a) Assist relevant national organizations in the assessment and enhancement of technical and managerial capacities at the programme level and in the formulation and implementation of cross-sectoral, sectoral and subsectoral development programmes;

(b) Assist in the transfer of skills necessary for the development of self-sustained national institutions with a capacity to deal with multisectoral linkages;

5. Stresses the need to develop baseline data and success indicators for the monitoring and evaluation of projects/programmes assisted by the United Nations Development Programme in line with the requirements of the programme approach;

6. Also stresses the need to involve the United Nations specialized agencies at the early stages of the design of the United Nations Development Programme assistance and support to national development programmes, at the request of Governments;

7. Requests the Administrator (a) to hold informal consultations at the United Nations Development Programme headquarters on the draft guiding principles during the second half of 1992 and (b) to submit a progress report to the Governing Council at its fortieth session (1993).

DRAFT DECISION IV

Evaluation

The Governing Council,

Bearing in mind its decision 83/12 of 24 June 1983, and 91/25 of 25 June 1991,

Taking note of the Administrator's report contained in document DP/1992/20 and the views expressed thereon in the Governing Council,

1. Welcomes the change in approach in the evaluation activities of the United Nations Development Programme towards more impact- and result-oriented assessments as well as towards increased strategy- and policy-oriented evaluation of United Nations Development Programme activities during the fifth programming cycle;

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2. Urges the Administrator to strengthen the capacity of the Central Evaluation Office: (a) to undertake policy, strategy and programme evaluations in line with the findings and recommendations of the strategic planning exercise and workload study referred to in documents DP/1992/20 and DP/1992/45 and (b) to backstop the evaluation capacity of the Regional Bureaux, keeping in mind the necessity to involve the recipient Governments themselves in evaluation activities through capacity-building and training in order to enhance needs-driven assessments of development cooperation activities;

3. Requests the Administrator to expand and accelerate measures that ensure genuine feedback and use of results attained through evaluations and assessments to the programming activities of the United Nations Development Programme as well as to the Governments concerned.

DRAFT DECISION V

Assistance to Myanmar

The Governing Council,

Noting the status of the fifth country programme for Myanmar as set out in the Administrator's note (DP/1992/63) and in document DP/1992/CRP.7,

Further noting the proposal of the Administrator that the implementation of the fifth country programme be continued from fourth cycle resources,

1. Requests the Administrator to review with the Government of Myanmar reallocations, as appropriate, of fourth programming cycle indicative planning figure resources and to approve personally higher priority projects likely to have greater impact at the grass-roots level from the resources thereby released;

2. Also requests the Administrator to conduct, through the Central Evaluation Office, a detailed review of the fifth country programme for Myanmar, including an evaluation of the impact of all projects implemented under it and to present a report to the Governing Council, together with recommendations on programming for Myanmar under the fifth programming cycle, at its fortieth session (1993);

3. Decides to defer further action on the sixth country programme for Myanmar until the Governing Council has considered and accepted the review and recommendations requested in paragraph 2 above.

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DRAFT DECISION VI

UNDP programme in former Yugoslavia

The Governing Council,

1. Notes the implementation status of the fourth cycle programme for former Yugoslavia;

2. Further notes the proposal of the Administrator to draw, as necessary, on the small balance of fourth cycle programme resources carried forward, solely for the preparation, under preparatory assistance umbrella projects, of urgent humanitarian projects on a case-by-case basis;

3. Authorizes the Administrator to proceed, exceptionally, on the basis of paragraph 2 of the present decision.
